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University of the State of New York

Division of Educational Extension
(Home Education Department)

MELVIL DEWEY *Director*

Bulletin 40

TRAVELING LIBRARIES AND COLLECTIONS 2

TRAVELING LIBRARIES

FIELD AND FUTURE OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES

BY

Melvil Dewey

SUMMARY OF TRAVELING LIBRARY SYSTEMS

PREPARED BY

Myrtilla Avery *Director's assistant*

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TRAVELING LIBRARIES

FIELD AND FUTURE OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES

BY MELVIL DEWEY M.A. *Director*

New conditions bring forth new problems and demand new solutions. Libraries in some form are almost as old as the race. It was steam when the bobbing cover of the teakettle suggested confinement of the vapor, but how different from what the word steam means today. The lightning on Franklin's kite hardly gave promise of the telephone, phonograph, cable, wireless telegraphy and other modern miracles. The chief factor in our new conditions is quick and cheap transportation. Railways, trolleys, express, mail, rural free delivery, telegraphs, cables, telephones, compel us to readjust our ideas in the light of new conditions and possibilities. One result is the traveling library.

The old education was completely revolutionized by the invention of printing, the real beginning of university extension. Students walked hundreds of miles, perhaps begging their way, to sit within sound of the voice of some chosen teacher or to read some book securely chained to a pillar. But the volume which then cost as much as a village has by the new process become as cheap as a lunch. The wisdom and learning which had to be sought out with infinite labor is printed and made accessible to the poorest. The world thus solved one of its greatest problems when it brought forth the traveling book, the precursor of the traveling library.

Influence of the book. We know from our own experience and observation that the eye rather than the ear is the great gate to the human soul. Most ideas and ideals are chiefly drawn from reading. Books, magazines and papers more than sermons, addresses or conversation set in motion the effective currents. A

recent careful investigation by educational experts as to what most influenced the lives of children showed that it was not the father, the mother, the school, but as might have been predicted, the reading.

By common consent the supreme thing in education is the building of character, but character grows out of habits, habits are based on actions, actions on motives, and motives on reflection. What makes most people reflect? It is usually reading that begets reflection, reflection begets motive, motive begets action, action repeated begets habits and habits beget that supreme thing character.

With every generation the comparative importance of reading seems to increase. It is well known that many delegates at meetings and conventions in which they are deeply interested seldom listen to papers and addresses because they find they can get the ideas so much more quickly and clearly after they appear on the printed page. The eye can sweep rapidly over matters of little interest, can dwell on points of importance, can go back to verify preceding statements with the result that in much less time the mind has gained much more. The preeminent influence of the printed page is thus increased by wider appreciation of its power.

On the material side the evidence is just as conclusive. The book is the chief factor in the marvelous evolution of the race. The brute has not the divine gift of speech. We admire the wonderful instincts of the bird, or fox or squirrel, but with minor variations they are the same that their ancestors have had for a thousand generations. The savage with speech and without books passes on something of his acquired knowledge from father to son, but the development is slow. Civilized man has become as a god in what he dares and does, because he stands on the shoulders of all his predecessors and utilizes the work of millions of men in thousands of years,

For a dwarf on the dead giant's shoulders sees more
Than the live giant's eyesight availed to explore.

The Indian stripped the birch and built his bark canoe in a day. He felled a tree across the stream and his bridge was done. But our sons have taken the skill and knowledge of their fathers and increased it, each beginning where his predecessor

left off. They build a Brooklyn bridge, or a ship, either of which costs as much as the land, houses and furniture of 50 country villages. The papers tell us that the Celtic built this season could in her vast hull accommodate more than the whole army of guests of that other modern marvel, the Waldorf-Astoria hotel. If there were a derrick large enough, the great city hall of New York could be lowered into this marvelous evolution of the dug-out and bark canoe. All this has been possible because the accumulated skill and knowledge have been preserved in print and passed on from generation to generation so that we may fairly say that the lofty pedestal on which we stand today is built up of printed sheets of paper.

Influence of the library. No thoughtful man can question that it is a supreme concern to provide for our people the best of the literature of power which inspires and builds character, and of the literature of knowledge which informs and builds prosperity. This can be done effectively and economically only through free public libraries. A limited number can buy or hire their books, but experience has proved that unless knowledge is as free as air or water it is fearfully handicapped, and the state can not afford to allow even the smallest obstacle to remain between any of its citizens and the desire for either inspiration or information.

Even more important than the economy is the question of selection and supervision of reading. A few leading nations are together producing 60,000 to 70,000 new volumes each year besides the millions already published. In a great library with trained bibliographers and careful study and organization, we find it possible only to approximate in our effort to supply each reader with what is best out of our resources. Our state library has 450,000 volumes, 150,000 pamphlets, 250,000 manuscripts and a countless number of articles in periodicals and transactions of societies and independent chapters in books. Yet we have fallen short of our ideal unless we can give to each reader from this immense variety what is then and there and to him most valuable. It is a problem of almost infinite difficulty even with all our bibliographies, catalogues, indexes, lists and trained specialists. Without such help how often in a thousand times is there a chance that a reader would really get the thing which would best serve his wants. One who has not studied these problems care-

fully is dazed by the difficulties and overpowered by the importance of finding at least an approximate solution.

The whole civilized world, with hardly enough intelligent dissent to prove the rule, has accepted the fact that the public library system is a necessity. Seldom in human history has a great movement received so cordial and universal support. Historians already tell us that in the future this will be known as the age of libraries just as that period when the great churches of Europe were built will always be known as the age of cathedrals. Even though the library is almost as old as the race, it is just now passing through that rapid and marvelous development in public conception of its proper functions which will make our time the real birth time of that modern institution, which bearing the old name "library", yet includes so much that hereafter it will take full rank in usefulness with our system of schools.

A glance at the development of the library idea will enable us better to predict its future, as the astronomer computes an orbit, not by study of where a body stands today, but of the track over which it has just come.

The original library was a storehouse in which the books could be preserved and passed on to posterity. To get and to keep were the chief functions, while to use was subordinate. Only a favored few had access to the books. Then a broadening process began. Those who could pay a certain fee might use the library. Then came the broad thought of making it free to all, but only for use in the building, as the present museum is used. The old librarian would have been as much shocked at the suggestion of taking a book from the building as would the modern curator of a museum if an interested child should ask to carry home the bird of paradise. Then came lending to a favored few, then to all who could pay the fee, and finally the great thought of lending free to all. But this was by no means the end. When I began work for public library interests in New York we had 40 free public libraries and 40,000 saloons, so that by the law of averages a boy leaving his home in the evening would pass 999 open doors with a cordial welcome to the worst influences to every one inviting him to the companionship and inspiration of the best books. Librarians realized that if they

were to do their best work they must have the aggressive spirit and adopt the aggressive methods of those who make other enterprises most successful. Then came the branch in the larger cities in order to reduce the difficulties of inaccessibility and to get within reasonable distance of each home a collection of books and an inviting reading room. The more widely scattered delivery stations followed, so that the workman could readily return his book in the morning and get a new one on the way back without going much out of his usual course. Then books were sent for a trifling fee to those who could not conveniently come after them, utilizing telegraph, telephone and local express or special delivery. Yet all this did not meet the demand and we realized that the new conditions brought about by cheap and quick transportation demanded new methods in solving our problem of "the best reading for the largest number at the least cost". Traveling libraries were sent out and, when we had proved that a given amount of money would accomplish more practical good in this way than in any other, new applications were constantly found and the few years of active work have established the traveling system as an essential part of the modern library movement.

Need of traveling libraries. New conditions made this new system imperative. The immense flood of new books and the growing demands of readers for the latest and best in every field showed that it was impracticable to undertake to make adequate libraries at all points needed. It is cheaper to transport than to store and handle books only occasionally used, even if they were given outright to the local library. Libraries must be mobilized. Books must travel more. Of some books extra copies can not now be had. Of most they can not be afforded with the money available. If there were buildings and books, the immense cost of proper cataloguing, classification, indexing and reference librarians would be prohibitive. For reference purposes, economy and efficiency demand a few great central libraries available by telephone and mail for consultation, and by express and mail for lending books to the entire surrounding section. The nation and each state should of course maintain one great cyclopedic library. Besides these there will be a few more in the great universities and cities, and here and there one supported by large private endowments.

For ordinary circulation a different reason points to the traveling principle; the number of books required is small compared with those needed for reference in studying all conceivable subjects, but there is even greater need of careful supervision in guiding this reading in a way to get the best results. Competent assistants can be found and afforded only in a few central points but can do the work for a large territory. Beginning with 1837 New York spent \$55,000 a year in establishing public libraries in the 11,000 school districts of the state. More than 20 other states followed the example and all had the same experience. The novelty wore off, the books were less used and in most cases became scattered so that instead of a steady increase, after the first 15 years there was steady diminution in the number of volumes. For a library is like a reservoir of drinking water. It must have a constant fresh stream running in or it becomes stagnant and unusable. This freshness is not dependent on the date of a book's publication, but on the time when it is first seen by that community. This is the great secret of the ordinary traveling library; 50 or 100 books go to a community and being a new broom sweep clean. There is a zest in looking them over and seeing what is available that stimulates interest and makes readers. After three or six months this wears off, but is renewed when this library is moved on to the next station and another takes its place. Thus interest is kept alive at every point and books which used to become mere lumber after a few readings are now promptly worn out in actual service, so that we are getting better returns for each dollar than by any other method.

New applications. The cheapness and quickness of modern methods of communication has been like a growth of wings, so that a thousand things which were thought to belong like trees in one place may travel about like birds. The idea is not at all limited to books and education. Large cars fitted up as chapels travel through the sparsely settled western country as churches on wheels. This is only a variation of the gospel tent, of the mission or revivalist. In commerce, manufacturers are more and more sending representatives for a limited time to various centers to display and sell their wares. This may be said to be only the evolution of the itinerant pedler whose pack has become a

whole car or store, while the individual has been replaced by an experienced manager with a corps of assistants. A report comes from California of traveling bees, where a commercial success has been made by sending carloads of hives in the night from one point to another where flowers richest in honey could be found, the railway making it possible to shift the bees with changing climate and seasons so as to increase immensely the marketable product. Scores of other illustrations will occur.

In our own field the principle is constantly applied with variations. Traveling pictures have taken their place with books and are being followed by apparatus, scientific collections, maps, charts and other educational agencies, too costly to be owned by a single locality, which, however, can get what it needs from a few months use in each year, thus dividing cost among a number. Inspectors and lecturers, conductors of institutes and other workers are only another phase of the traveling principle in which the railway takes to the people many things which formerly they could have only by making long journeys. Our proposed book wagons and the library car and reading room moving to various points on its company's lines are variations of the same itinerant principle. The home library for children, the house library for rural districts, collections for shipboard, barracks, fire engine houses, police stations, lumber and mining camps, lighthouses, summer hotels, clubs and other associations are reaching every class and remote locality with library facilities on the traveling plan. Though the movement is still in its infancy, its future is assured from the fact that certain greatly desired results can be accomplished on this plan more cheaply than on any other yet devised. The field of the traveling library properly covers much more than most people understand by the words. Any library extension that goes out on the itinerant principle is part of the traveling library idea. The applications are almost endless. Some of them are noted as suggestive of the broadening process that grows with the years. Liberal extracts are naturally made from our own previous bulletins and reports in order to group together here matter of special interest to students of the traveling library system. Some were printed several years ago. Numerous notes applying to traveling libraries only incidentally are also included.

State federations of women's clubs. These have been the most active promoters of the new system. They have interest, influence and leisure and can render inestimable service in securing public recognition and support by first demonstrating great public utility. A single illustration will be suggestive. In New York a library committee of the state federation was appointed with our director's assistant as chairman in order to start the work in close connection with the state library. Its report outlines the plan of work suggested and adopted as follows:

One of the activities which earliest claims the attention of the various state federations of the country is that of providing to all, opportunities for reading the best books. This is quite a normal condition of affairs, for thoughtful men and women all over the country and the world are recognizing this as one of the vital problems, coordinate with that of public health and of public school education. In reflecting this popular feeling, the state federations are usually quicker to act than are the state legislatures; so it comes to pass that most library committees are confronted at the outset with the difficulties of converting the law-makers and bringing about desirable legislation in the interest of libraries. Much has already been accomplished in this way by the various federations, perhaps more particularly in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia, while the federations in Tennessee, New Jersey, Kentucky, Maine and Missouri are planting seed which will certainly yield fruit later. The two points to be gained are usually, first, a law providing for proper maintenance of local free libraries, and second, an appropriation for starting a traveling library system.

In New York, however, the whole problem is quite different. We find ourselves, happily, not only in possession of a library law drafted by expert librarians in the best interests of librarianship, but entitled to state aid for libraries and to the benefits of a traveling library system more complete and far reaching than any other that has been known.

Since that is the case, it may appear to some that a library committee is unnecessary in New York. But strange as it may seem the privileges which the state offers through its public libraries division are comparatively unknown to individual citizens. Perhaps some even here do not know, for example, that on application of 25 taxpayers and the payment of \$5 for transportation both ways, catalogues, etc. even the most remote hamlet may without farther charge have the use of a library of 100 well selected, recent and popular books sent from the state library at Albany.

In recognition of this wide spread ignorance, the library committee appointed last January by your executive board has in view the accomplishment of the following definite ends:

- 1 Establishment of free libraries where none exist.
- 2 Encouragement and aid of small libraries already in existence.
- 3 Conversion of subscription libraries into free libraries.
- 4 Introduction of state traveling libraries, specially in farming districts and in study clubs.
- 5 Introduction of traveling pictures in schools, libraries and study clubs.
- 6 Raising the standard of books in our Sunday-school and public school libraries.
- 7 Sale of a better class of books at railway stations and on trains. It has even been suggested that free libraries such as are now found on the great limited expresses should be available on all trains.

8 Cooperation with the state library in preparing reading lists on special subjects and general lists for special classes. The state library has lists on several subjects and has general lists for children, a list of 500 of the best books for the insane, and is now arranging for a collection in point print of the best books for the blind, to be lent to individuals anywhere in the state.

In brief, the library committee undertakes to create a demand for good reading and to awaken a sense of the obligation which rests on every citizen to make his less fortunate neighbor, so far as possible, a reader of good books.

In the pursuit of this broad end, few rules of procedure can be laid down. It is of necessity a popular work, requiring personal effort. To focalize this effort, however, the state was divided into sections at the Rochester meeting, each member being responsible for the district assigned to her. In the six months that the committee has been at work, varying methods have been employed in the different districts. One member has done most of her work by correspondence. 13 of the towns with which she has been working have responded favorably, and others have written to Albany for circulars and farther information.

Another member, who has a newspaper connection, has circulated information on library matters through the local paper, supplemented by personal work when opportunity arose. Four members have felt that their first work was needed in their own communities, and have devoted their energies to the concrete problems there arising. This personal facing of the difficulties of organization is an excellent prelude for efficient work later, for it gives a practical knowledge which is most useful in any effort to help others.

Another member has visited about 25 neighboring localities, and has talked with the representative people; she has also been in correspondence with as many more, but as the locality is thinly settled results come slowly.

The work of our member from Allegany county, Mrs Hamilton Ward, needs only to be referred to, since hers was the pioneer federation library work in the state. Two new libraries have just been started, and in other towns the interest almost warrants active steps.

The Jamestown library has been for years a center of library interest and enthusiasm in the southwestern part of the state, but since her appointment on the library committee the librarian, Miss Hazeltine, has been even more zealous in her efforts to increase library facilities in the surrounding towns. She feels, with the other members of the committee, that in general the traveling library system offers the best plan for starting, and as a result of her work three towns have already received their libraries, and others are preparing to do so.

Even though the time of year has been inauspicious for developing library interests, there has been much to encourage and to stimulate to farther effort. Increased interest may be seen by the growing number of letters received by the public libraries division at Albany, inquiring as to the state privileges in the matter of libraries.

It is apparent, however, that to accomplish the best results, the library committee must have the active cooperation of every federated club. To this end, we suggest that whenever it is feasible, each federated body appoint a standing library committee to work with the member of the committee in whose territory the club is. Such a local library committee should cooperate with the public library when one exists in the town, studying the problems and difficulties and providing the remedy when possible. When there is no public library, the first duty of course is to start one. The general reading of the locality should also be a matter of concern to these committees. Besides attempting to influence those in authority, to increase the number of wholesome, readable books in the Sunday school and school libraries, it is highly desirable that the children should be appealed to directly and, if possible, induced to ask for a better class of books. Among the older readers, in towns where wide acquaintance with books is not general, attractively written book reviews in the local papers may create a desire for a grade of reading much higher than would otherwise have been selected. Other plans and methods will of course be devised by the local committees, and these should be fully reported so that other clubs may profit by the experience.

It is also proposed that each member of the state committee

hold a library meeting for her district, which shall be practically a section meeting of the New York library association, except that the subjects under discussion shall be popular rather than technical. To these meetings should be invited not only the librarians—perhaps more particularly the librarians of the smaller libraries—nor only members of federated clubs, but all who are or should be interested in the great problem of books and reading. Such topics should be considered as the “need of good reading in every community,” “the best methods of utilizing the resources available,” “the ways and means for increasing these resources and for raising funds for developing library facilities.”

There is not time to enlarge on the subject of libraries and reading, nor to relate more explicitly the advantages offered by the state in supplying books and pictures on the traveling plan. In all this work, however, New York is the recognized pioneer and leader. Through the lawmakers the men of the state have recognized and provided for the people's needs. It is for the women to execute.

The need is so real and so pitiful! Who that has spent any time in a small, inland village, can think without a heartache of the barrenness of the lives of these villages? Yet it is often sadly true that those who most need good reading demand it least. To convert that need into a demand—that is the work of your library committees.

Traveling libraries for study clubs. This is one of the most important fields and is rapidly extending. The problem of selecting a traveling library for a club largely made up of the women with most interest and most leisure for study is quite different from that of selecting for the general reading of a community. Our study club report for 1898 gives these two suggestive extracts.

From the *New York Times*:

With the return of frost comes back the day of the club, when women run together of a morning to obtain a little stimulus for sober reading. Sometimes eager and earnest, sometimes desultory and languid, according to the caliber of its members, the so-called literary society (which deals with history and biography as often as with literature) is not only fashionable, but is so closely connected with the spirit of our times that it is undoubtedly destined to remain with us and adapt itself to changing needs and views. Barring out the meetings which very busy people hold in their spare evenings, the woman's club may be said to represent society's effort to put itself in touch with the

world which really works. It springs from the widespread movement for scattering knowledge broadcast, and is forever trying to connect itself with the more serious phases of intellectual life, to reach out to and understand minds which not only receive but create ideas.

From Mrs H. A. Davidson, who for years has been one of our most successful conductors of study clubs:

This leads me to the third essential condition of disciplinary study in literary circles; viz, to consideration of library facilities demanded for such work. It goes without saying that in this day there can be no study worthy the name which is not based on the library. Books, for the student, are no longer tomes to be read, they are tools to be handled in strict subservience to the subject in hand. The student today may require 50 volumes in the time spent by his grandfather over one. The question before us is one of the difficulties imposed by this demand upon those who are remote from great library centers. In the state of New York, and in many others which have followed a good example, when the student can not go to the library the library comes to the student. But this furnishes only a partial solution of the difficulty. I am not a librarian, and that is my only excuse for presenting this subject to you who are experts. I may aid you in recognizing the practical problems on the non-professional side of your work. I shall, then, attempt to state briefly the requirements to be met in the library for the study club desiring to do disciplinary work and to show you wherein they are not merely questions of bibliography.

The first requirement in such a library is one of selection. The literary club can not afford to pay for a library which includes a fairly complete bibliography for the subject chosen. The books, therefore, must be selected in accordance with certain principles. To make my discussion more definite, I shall confine it to the question of books for literary subjects. The general principles are, however, no less true for historical, scientific and other subjects. The books included should be first of all those that may fairly be ranked as original books, or those representing original and valuable work. In each year are published a few books which give to the world the rich results of years of patient investigation, the ripe product of a life time of study and thought, or the treasures of creative genius. These are the books published because they have been produced and the world must have them. They are followed by a flood of other books made out of the material that these contain. These are the books which are made to be published, they have their value, but it is of utmost importance in disciplinary study that the student go, when possible,

to the works of the men who have done the work, not to the books of those who have merely tried with a narrow and limited scholarship to understand and reproduce the work of the genuine student.

Second, a sharp distinction should be made in the selection of books for the study club between those which contain materials for work and those which are merely collections of papers containing, not information and facts, but personal points of view and opinions. When the subject is a literary one, in the first division of material for work must be included all the important works written by the author in question, all biographies, memoirs, collections of letters, reminiscences, and so on, which give information about his training, habits of thought, experiences, companions, literary creed, and all printed matter which may throw light upon the sources from whence he drew his material. Books of critical essays should be included but they should be few and of the very best.

Third, there should usually be included a few books not belonging in the bibliography of the subject at all, but related to it in a broad way and dealing with the fundamental principles, the artistic theories, and the philosophy involved; for instance, in connection with the study of fiction, a few books on literary art; in connection with the study of drama, certain works on technique and construction of plays, on the stage and connected subjects. Perhaps selection and adaptation of this kind does not fall within the librarian's field. The library itself furnishes to the resident student in the arrangement of its appliances the means of examining and selecting for himself. It can not be asked to supply in addition brains for making use of the facilities given. But in case of the study club, the very essence of the situation lies in the distance of the club from the library, in absence of bibliographies and of facilities for selecting wisely. In comparatively few instances can relief from this difficulty be found within the literary circle itself. It contains no members having sufficient training to know which books are of greatest importance in the course of study to be pursued. Even were new books as they are issued within reach for examination, which they are not, there would be no one able to decide on their reliability and value or on their practical adaptability to the work in hand. Yet nothing is more unfortunate than for a club to pursue a line of study for an entire winter with books which in point of scholarship or recent discoveries are 10 years behind the times. The study club needs most of all some one who is not of its membership, who has better training, wider knowledge of books and periodicals, and more vital connection with the literary, scholastic and book world than is possible in a provincial community; some

one who will serve as a medium of communication between the club and those means of culture belonging to the wider world of art, letters and science. This may not be library work, but it is work of vital importance. The study club needs that some one should do for the libraries devoted to its use precisely what the head of a department in a great university does for the library in his seminar rooms. He knows the field, he knows what is done in other departments of the same kind, he sees and judges new publications and secures for his seminar whatever is specially valuable in the lines of work pursued by his students.

Fourth, in study clubs attempting disciplinary study, there is needed a considerable number of duplicates. If any part of the work is to be done in common, books must be supplied for this purpose. The distribution of topics as a scheme lends itself easily to the use of a considerable collection of books not containing duplicates, and the report of the number of books used would probably make a better showing than when closer study is carried on by the use of duplicates, but the net result to the individual is greater in the latter case. I recently asked for a report on the use of one traveling library. The subject was the study of *Romola* and the 15th century. The lady in charge of the library told me that a comparatively small number of books had been drawn for reading, but that Villari's *Life and times of Savonarola*, Symond's *Age of the despots*, Mrs Oliphant's *Makers of Florence*, and one or two other volumes had been going from hand to hand all winter and that many more copies of these books would have been used. In another club it proved necessary for successful work to buy the life and letters of James Russell Lowell, though expensive. One set was purchased for each three members. In my opinion, the library should not furnish the book or books which primarily are the subject of study, unless indeed there be need of sets of books beyond the purse of the individual; but there is always a small group of books closely related to these which ought to be in constant use. These the club should be able to secure in the same manner as any other books, and it should have at its option, according to the subject, duplicates up to one third or one half its membership.

The library should include as many small groups of specially selected books as there are special topics in the course of study. These will naturally go at once to the persons taking up the topics for study and form the basis of their work.

Let me sum up. The library for the study club should include:

- 1 A full set of books containing the materials for study, the complete works of the author, or what not; biographies, books giving reliable information on the subject and related topics, etc.

- 2 A few books giving a broad and general or theoretic view of the subject, one part of which has been chosen for study.

3 A few of the best books of a critical or philosophical character bearing on the subject.

4 Enough duplicates of the books most constantly in requisition.

5 Several small groups of books selected with reference to the study of special topics.

Thus you see the library should consist of groups of books carefully chosen for certain uses. It may include but the smallest part of a bibliography of the subject, but the books should always be those that would be found most worn had the members of the club access to the shelves of a great library.

It seems to me that a carefully revised report of the use made of each traveling library sent out might in time furnish data for a more careful adaptation of the books selected to the special need of study clubs. This report should include such items as a list of the books most in requisition; a list of the books not used, or unsatisfactory, with reasons; of books needed but not included in the libraries; and a report on the number of duplicates that would have been used.

Traveling reference libraries. The assumption is general that a traveling library is for circulation only. But in many cases as much or more good can be accomplished by a library of which the books do not leave a certain room. The consideration that should determine the use of the books and that should override all presumptions or theories, is how the citizens of New York can be induced to read the largest number of the best books at the least cost. Any organization or community that can show an unusually favorable opportunity for such work may fairly ask for a traveling library and ought to be supplied. When we grant the principle, which almost no one seriously questions, that the library ranks with the public school as an educational agency to be fostered by the state, we are forced to the conclusion that the state can no more afford to neglect any specially favorable opportunities for libraries than it can afford to have a thickly populated rural district without free public schools. If a local art gallery or museum has suitable rooms open to the public for exhibiting its treasures, with conveniences for reading, making extracts, verifying references, etc. it would be eminently proper to send to that museum, if there were no other way of providing a suitable reference library on art, science or other subject of the collection, such a traveling library as would be needed by

students or visitors, the amount of use to determine the utility of the method.

Traveling libraries for the blind. The more peculiar is any class the more likely are they to need the traveling library because there are seldom enough of them at one point to maintain permanently all the necessary library facilities. Our work for the blind illustrates this service for a special class.

A paper before the American library association in 1898 (*Library journal* 23 : C93-95) by Henry M. Utley, Detroit public librarian and ex-president of the American library association, confirms our own judgment that circulation of books for the blind is most easily and appropriately made from a state center, because: the books are expensive; most readers are unable or unwilling to visit a library; and there are few blind people in any one community except in large cities.

We hope to secure the advantages and avoid the disadvantages of distribution from a state center. The vital problem of library work for the state is to secure the added intelligence, the technical skill and the economic gain of a large center without losing the sympathetic effort of the librarian. This must always be a large factor in bringing together book and reader, which is after all the essence of library work. To secure the nice balance of intelligence and sympathy is the chief study in developing the state library for the blind.

Our readers seem to enjoy very much our correspondence with them in their own language by use of the kleidograph, an ingenious special typewriter. We send out letters which they can read with their fingers and in reply they use this machine or writing tablets.

Our plan also involves securing the cooperation of libraries throughout the state, or of individuals, one or more in each town, who will act as references for blind readers and visit them in their homes, explaining the plans of the library and the ease with which they may share its unusual opportunities. Since about 80% of the blind lose their sight in adult life, the first step consists in circulating alphabets and primers and persuading those who have not learned to read type for the blind that it is worth while for them to put forth a little persistent effort. These local co-operators may also be of great service in securing gifts of money

to be spent for new books. Liberal friends have already furnished means for us to print a dozen choice books not before available to the blind and have also given money so that books are sent both ways without charge to the reader for expressage.

The mistake common in dealing with special classes has been often made with the blind in assuming that they should have something very different from most people. There seems to have been an assumption that those without sight would wish to spend most of their time on distinctly religious literature. Our experience shows that perhaps even more than the seeing they crave books that broaden their horizon and bring them in contact with all phases of life. Our first publication, the *Bonnie brier bush*, was warmly welcomed, and we strive to choose for printing such books as will attract as well as profit. We are of course glad to furnish extra copies of these new books to those outside the state at a price simply covering cost of manufacture.

From a variety of types New York point was chosen because easier to learn and less bulky than any other system, and because used by the institutions for the blind in this state. Our library contains also many books in other types. New York point is so easily learned by adults, and even by those whose hands are hardened by labor, that no blind person wanting to read, need miss the privilege. Alphabets and primers are circulated to those not familiar with the type. An attractive and steadily increasing literature including some of the best modern books, e. g. the *Jungle book*, offers a rich reward for a little persistent effort.

Our aim is to extend the work till it reaches every blind person in the state (about 5000 by the census of 1890) who can read or will learn to read type for the blind, unless already served by the two or three libraries for the blind in Greater New York. It will not be possible to reach those living in small towns or in the country without earnest cooperation on the part of many people. All who read our reports are asked to send us the names and addresses of every blind person known to them living in New York state. A name should be sent even if the sender feels confident that the person in mind will never use the library. Such names will be of service as part of the statistics of the reading habits of the blind which we plan to keep. Fuller introductions which would help us to an understanding of the personal needs of readers would be gladly received.

Traveling libraries for children. The last years of this century are often spoken of as distinctively the age of the children. Never before was so much time, study and money spent on children, their care, education and amusement, and specially on their books. The results of the scientific study of children by psychologists and teachers have steadily increased this interest, and with equal step has grown the appreciation that the public library has its greatest field with the youngest readers. Experience shows that comparatively few adults acquire the habit of reading good books to any great extent. The library must build its constituency by interesting the children and supplying them in the period of adolescence, when habits are forming, with the best to be had in print. In the work of the library school we have frequent demand for students who have specialized on reading for children. The more progressive libraries throughout the country have learned within a few years the wisdom of having special rooms for children, as they learned years ago the necessity of the greatest care in the selection of juvenile books. The new traveling system is specially applicable to children's wants.

Environment libraries. It is a serious problem to find how best to induce people to substitute for the usual mere desultory reading something with more method and profit. In the schools we may have an element of compulsion. In the library we must make people prefer to do what is best or it will not be done. Clearly the best results come from utilizing present interest in any topic to put before the reader other books on the same subject or naturally growing out of it. To read consecutively a half dozen different volumes all closely allied is to strengthen the effect of each through the influence of the other five. We give the name "environment library" to one of our systematic efforts in this direction from which we hope for good results. But too much should not be expected, for librarians the world over have been disappointed when they have prepared carefully courses of reading and choice, well balanced selections of books which theoretically were going to contribute greatly to the reader's education and culture. Human nature is much the same in all conditions. We select the best authorities on agriculture, stock raising, farm life and the other subjects which in theory should be eagerly sought for in the rural districts, and find that the farmers and

their families have the universal, keen appetite for the last new novel. From the infancy of the race three requests have been on the lips of men: tell me a story; show me a picture; what is the news? The response has developed the novel, photograph and daily newspaper. We must learn to work with the tools which experience shows to be most effective. With them we shall more easily move along the lines of least resistance. In medicine our fathers were carefully cautioned, when suffering from certain diseases, against drinking water or eating certain food which they particularly craved, but we have grown wiser, have learned that nature knew more than the physicians, who have now learned to administer the very things which their predecessors forbade. It is equally true that in many cases a greater ultimate good is accomplished by giving to the tired and overworked the fascinating novel which refreshes by taking the reader into a new world, instead of the book selected as preeminently profitable.

Clearly we ought in the work of the traveling libraries to recognize fully the claims of both recreation and study. The book that inspires is apt to be worth a great deal more than the book that informs, though the narrow view would be to count a volume of practical recipes as more profitable than a book of poems. The best literary style, like the clearest window glass, is that which is not even observed. In the same way the best guidance in reading is often that of which the reader is least conscious.

This is the thought in the environment library. If some lecture or entertainment kindles a special interest in Hiawatha, the environment library that would fit the time would have other Indian poems and stories, histories and travels among the Iroquois and in the land of the Ojibways. There would be Longfellow's other works, and books about the author or his home and surroundings. Besides the volumes there might be pamphlets, articles and periodicals, and above all interesting photographs illustrating any side of the subject. If material is available, as a little effort will often show it to be, in many cases the museum side can contribute more than pictures. Indian relics of any kind would attract an intelligent attention from those working with a Hiawatha library, and specimens, pictures and books would support each other in keeping alive that keen interest which

brings the highest pleasure and profit from the time given to reading.

Medical libraries. The traveling system may be applied also to medical literature. A collection of books, serials and pamphlets on any special subject can be sent out for temporary use of a club or society, or even of a single physician who wishes more than could be conveniently given by abstracts or notes made in the paid help department; or a traveling library consisting of the newest books could be sent from city to city or to clubs of physicians, who should have a few days to examine the works, select such as they might wish to buy, and then send on to the next club for similar examination. Wherever 10 or more physicians chose to organize in a club it would be practicable to afford these facilities for a monthly, or even more frequent examination of the most interesting new medical literature, which many of them might not otherwise have opportunity to see.

Reading of farmers. There is no opportunity for educational work in America more promising than putting the best available reading into farmhouses. The long winter evenings when there is nothing to do on the farm and no city attractions and distractions to draw people away from home afford unusual opportunity for exciting interest in good books. No class has so much leisure for reading as farmers outside their busy season. Some do not read at all. Others do worse and read nothing but "yellow" journals. Many limit their reading to a religious paper of their denomination and to a local journal, both "weakly." Occasionally a subscription book falls into their hands which has been "recommended" by their clergyman or in some way has been exchanged for their hard earned money under an impression that it is a duty to have that particular book. There are exceptions that prove the rule, but our surprise and delight to find in a back country farmhouse the best books or magazines illustrate what is expected by those familiar with the facts.

Some papers classed as "religious weeklies" are among the best literature circulated, but there is an immense circulation of weekly papers, narrow in religious outlook and weak or utterly lacking in literary merit, which find subscribers simply because they are run as the organ of some denomination. Even worse is

the partizan sheet published primarily to advance some political interest. Little can be hoped from people whose chief literary diet is made up of matter printed for partizan or sectarian ends. The local clergyman is often the very best adviser as to books, but men are frequently induced to sign strong recommendations of an inferior book because the motives of author or publisher were so praiseworthy as to blind them to the weakness of the production or because they are too softhearted to refuse a testimonial persistently asked.

Our experience with traveling libraries has shown the wonderful possibilities that had lain dormant till within a decade when the state library started this missionary campaign. Demand has grown till now we have over 1000 of these libraries traveling about on their beneficent work all over the Empire state. But these collections have gone to libraries, schools and communities and have not reached the individual farmhouse where there are often five to 10 or more persons, all of whom should be helped to the best reading suited to their individual needs. The traveling library idea should be extended to scattered farms. We have lent books from the state library, but express or postage both ways makes a prohibitive cost if the books must go one at a time. A package of 10 or more books sent to an individual home on the traveling library principle, and left long enough to give all the family opportunity to read as many of the books as interest them, would develop a taste for reading that would make good soil in which to plant reading circles, book clubs and the other agencies sure to follow a genuine interest in better reading. In this work we must remember that it is not a question of giving a farmer the best magazine or paper on farming or the best book or two on horses, cows, poultry, swine and other special topics, but of interesting him as a citizen in the infinite number of subjects that attract and fascinate those who live in cities, and helping him to broaden his own life by keeping in touch with the life of the rest of the world. After the farmer has acquired the reading habit and has learned that he can earn more money and enjoy his work better by standing on the shoulders of his predecessors and learning from the best books and periodicals the result of their experiments and experience, we must of course use our influence to help him to the very best reading outside his

own special subjects. But the great thing is to develop so strong a taste for reading that it will insist on gratification. The complete solution is not obvious, but the way will open as our work goes forward. We can begin by sending the house library where there is strongest demand. Rural free delivery is opening certain possibilities. Probably the work, to be done most economically and efficiently, will require the traveling library in a new form.

Book wagons. A large wagon holding 100 or more of these house libraries could be so arranged that a skilful man could drive from house to house, exchange books, spend an hour perhaps with the people in getting a better idea of their interests and of what books would best meet their present wants. Under careful management as large educational returns could be secured from these book wagons as from any work now being done at public expense. In some localities the traveling missionary of the book might be able to gather people together in a schoolhouse or church for an informal talk, after which he would help each individual to choose for carrying home works that would really interest him.

Rural library extension. The suggestion of furnishing the best reading to farmhouses and other rural homes not having available library facilities has met only with warm approval. There is a steady tendency to recognize the free library as a necessity to the highest civilization just as much as the postoffice, and to extend its facilities to earth's remotest bounds as rural free delivery and other improvements are extending those of the postoffice.

In 1892 we provided in § 42 of the library law that "trustees may under such conditions as they deem expedient, extend the privileges of the library to persons living outside such locality." The purpose of this new clause was to suggest definitely the desirability of granting in a liberal spirit the use of the library to those living in the section, but beyond the corporate lines of the municipality which paid for the library. The principle is sound from the standpoint of economics as well as of education. It is being accepted more and more widely. In Wisconsin 38 out of 100 public libraries are free to the farmers near them. Gifts or endowments of individuals have made this possible in some cases.

In others, the townships have themselves appropriated money toward supporting libraries in neighboring cities or villages. The town of Ticonderoga, N. Y., recently voted without opposition to make the village library, chartered by the regents Mar. 29, 1900, a township library. It is easily made clear that the fixed charges of a library for rent, fuel, lights, salaries, printing and new books are not perceptibly affected by opening it to the farmers of the section. There is a trifling extra cost for keeping the records and for increased wear of books. On the other hand, shrewd business men recognize that such a privilege is a distinct means of attracting trade. A man living between two towns will drive a little farther to do his business in the one where he is cordially welcomed and can get free from a public library books which he and his family wish to read. This liberal spirit reacts. In one case a library was opened free to the farmers who, at the first town meeting thereafter, without solicitation voted unanimously an appropriation toward its support. The farmers are usually willing to grant only a small sum at first, but as they learn to use the library and understand how much it does for their families, they almost uniformly show a liberal spirit and are willing to pay more according to their means than inhabitants of cities.

As illustrative of the steady growth of this movement, I quote from Wisconsin laws of 1899, ch. 139, amending § 934 of the general statutes, this clause in the powers of libraries:

... may exchange such books with any other public library, either permanently or temporarily, and may send out traveling libraries in their own and adjoining counties; and any such board may contract with the board of supervisors of the county in which the library is situated, or with the board of supervisors of any neighboring county, or with individuals or associations, or with the board of supervisors, school board, village trustees, or common council of any neighboring town, school district, village or city, to loan the books of said library, singly or in traveling libraries, to the residents of said county, town, school district, village or city, upon the terms agreed upon in such contract; and every such board of directors, board of county or town supervisors, school district board, village trustees or common council is hereby empowered to make contracts for such purpose, and to pay the consideration agreed upon therein, to the board of directors of such library and reading room, out of the county, school district,

town, village or city treasury on rendering proper accounts therefor.

An amendment is now being added to this section, authorizing annual appropriations for the use and benefit of a library not situated in the town, village or city, but the use of which is free to its inhabitants, and providing also, as farther inducement for cordial cooperation, that if this grant from outside amounts to one sixth of the library's net annual income, the authorities may appoint from the citizens making the grant, one director to serve for three years or till the appropriation is discontinued.

No careful observer can fail to see the steady onward march of the idea that the public can not afford not to provide that every citizen may have free the best of the world's wisdom and experience as preserved in books. This ideal does not seem half so visionary as would a century ago the prophecy that a letter would be delivered from the remotest hamlet in Maine to a mining camp in Montana with incredible speed and accuracy for a total cost of 2c. The marvels of modern engineering machinery and American inventions, which all the world recognizes, make it entirely reasonable to ask that great progress should be made in the organized efforts of the public to furnish the "best reading to the largest number at the least cost."

In summer hotels. At first thought it seems hardly proper that a state or public library should lend its books to a hotel carried on for gain. It suggests that the public is bearing the cost of making the hotel more attractive to guests. But the traveling libraries are maintained to induce our citizens to read the best books. In a great summer hotel we find them at leisure, usually with no reading matter but the daily papers, and those often "yellow." We put postoffices, weather bureau stations and charts in such places because large numbers are reached. We at first tried to forestall any possible criticism by charging a double fee to a hotel, club or other borrower where the books were not free to the residents of the locality, but our experience inclines us to think it wise to put our books in such places at ordinary fees if properly guarantied against injury or loss and if they are not needed at the time by our regular borrowers. If we believe the principle is sound that it pays the state to furnish the best books free we shall have to put them wherever they

will be cared for and used and thus do the work for which the system was devised.

Traveling books. A variation of the traveling library idea is the freer lending of one or a few books to distant points. This started first as interlibrary loans and now the more progressive libraries of the country draw on one another's resources as needed. In the broadening always going on the student or investigator becoming known as responsible gets the loan directly without the intervention of his local library. All depends on the fact that the book can travel more easily than the reader. As suggestive of the rules necessary to guard, not so much against loss or abuse as fear of it with the attendant criticism, our own plan is here given.

Loans outside Albany. The state library, founded for the benefit of the people of the whole state, contains many books not readily accessible elsewhere and not so much used at Albany as to make their brief absence from the shelves a serious consideration. Many teachers in University institutions and others eligible to borrow books from the state library find it of great advantage to have access to these books without incurring the serious expense and loss of time for the journey to Albany. As the library is an integral part of the University, it is, so far as practicable, to supplement the individual libraries of all its institutions as their university library. Books are therefore lent from the state library to institutions in the University and to registered borrowers for temporary use outside Albany, *provided:*

- 1 That such precautions be taken in packing as to guard against any probability of injury in transportation.

- 2 That the state library shall not pay postage or express either way.

- 3 That borrowers at a distance shall not be entitled to retain books as long a time as is allowed borrowers in Albany where the books can be sent for if specially needed by the library, but shall return the books at the earliest practicable day after the temporary use for which they were lent.

- 4 That no book shall be lent except on condition that it be returned within 24 hours after notice is received from the library that the claims of other users require its recall.

- 5 That this permission shall not be construed as giving borrowers at a distance any claim on books which, from their cheapness or wide distribution, can easily be obtained nearer home, *nor on books which because of cost, rarity or constant use in the state library can not properly be allowed to leave it temporarily.*

6 That any borrower refusing or neglecting to conform to any rules necessary to protect the state library against loss, injury or inconvenience to readers, or failing to return promptly and in good order any book lent, shall forfeit all state library privileges.

Under the above conditions books are sent from Albany to:

- 1 Any institution in the University.
- 2 Any registered public or free library.
- 3 Responsible heads of state institutions, departments or courts, or to those connected with the state government and needing books for use in their official work.
- 4 Registered study clubs, extension centers, summer schools or other recognized educational agencies.
- 5 Any resident of the state making studies or investigations in which he needs the assistance of the state library, provided that his responsibility is known to the library or that he gives satisfactory references or makes a deposit covering the value of the books.

It is usually most convenient for readers not known at the state library to have books sent to them through the local library or school authorities. The state library recognizes this lending of books to distant points as a very important part of its work and is anxious to be of service to the largest number possible of those needing its assistance not alone in lending but in recommending the best books and in furnishing, through its home education department devoted specially to such work, printed or manuscript aids to those pursuing studies or courses of reading without a teacher.

The preceding rules state the library's policy as to loans to individual borrowers outside Albany and to institutions. The number of institutions borrowing from the home education department increased from eight in 1892, when books were first sent to extension centers, to 531 institutions, study clubs and groups of taxpayers in 1898.

Traveling libraries for students of special topics. No section of the work of the traveling libraries has received more general praise from taxpayers of the state than the provision by which special subject libraries are sent to groups of students so situated that they could not continue the special work in which they are interested without this state loan. Careless or desultory work is guarded against by requiring that all clubs availing themselves of this privilege shall pledge themselves to study the subject during not less than 10 consecutive weeks and the books are themselves an incentive to keeping this agreement. As it

does not belong to this plan to supply general reading, every book is expected to be of service to the student of the subject either for information, inspiration or illustration. The limit of 10 weeks study is simply a minimum, as in almost all cases the work is continued during a much longer time. Requests have come from citizens of all adjoining states, as well as from Canada and more distant states, asking extension of the privilege beyond state limits. In such cases, while unable directly to aid such work outside our borders, we have sent a full set of our publications and blanks to be used by applicants in memorializing their own legislatures to provide for their needs as is done for citizens of New York.

Loans besides books. Apparatus, lantern slides, photographs or other illustrative material needed by clubs are lent as far as available, on payment of fees corresponding to those paid for traveling libraries.

Registered clubs may borrow from the state library not exceeding 10 volumes at once for use at a single meeting. The books will be sent by express on the day before the meeting at which they are to be used and must be returned on the day following. No fee is charged, but the club pays transportation.

Exchanges. Books, apparatus or other material bought by a club and no longer needed will if practicable be exchanged with another club for an equivalent. Values will be determined without charge by a disinterested appraiser. The club pays for packing and transportation both ways.

Capitol library. This is a collection of about 2000 books selected as best for lending to employees of the state in and about Albany. If traveling libraries are sent to remote parts of the state to put attractive reading in the homes of our citizens, it was recognized that we should not do less for the hundreds who were not only citizens but also employees of the state living temporarily in Albany. It is an inversion of the traveling library idea, as the readers, not the books, are the travelers in this case; but it is useful and deserves adoption in many other places.

Cooperation of the press. This has been marked and cordial from the first. Seldom has a novel idea had so little criticism and so much commendation. The columns of practically every

paper are open to any brief and good items or articles aiding our work. These items make readers for the libraries and make libraries for the readers, because they often interest those who will give money or influence or votes to establish or enlarge traveling library systems. I give in full a short article of this kind by George Iles from the *World's work*, February 1901.

THE WORK OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES

BY GEORGE ILES

As long ago as 1835 the state of New York established libraries in its district schools; the plan was widely imitated throughout the Union, and yet it came to little good. Of like sad history are thousands of other libraries brought together in villages and small towns of America. Often the first selection of books was unwise, the trustees imagining that what interested themselves must surely interest the public, while, too, there was much inconsiderate acceptance of the weeds and rubbish from dusty attics. Lacking the means to refresh the shelves with the best current literature, a year was usually long enough to exhaust the interest of the library for every diligent reader.

Thanks to Mr Melvil Dewey, the state librarian of New York at Albany, this situation, in 1893, began to brighten. In that year he commenced to send out to any community in the state a library of 25, 50, or 100 volumes, on condition that the books be safely guarded and returned within six months, subject to a nominal charge for packing, freight, and the blanks needed for simple accounts. At headquarters Mr W. R. Eastman directs a staff competent to select books at once helpful and attractive; with each box goes a printed list, every title followed by a brief descriptive note. Whether a community is chiefly made up of farmers, lumbermen, or factory hands is kept in mind as its books are assembled. Adaptation is the main principle of choice. Just as soon as a library has been read it is sent back to Albany to be exchanged for another, and any special requirement of a study club, or other band of learners, meets with a prompt and liberal response. Eight years ago the smaller libraries of the state were stagnant ponds scattered here and there totally without plan; today we have in their stead reservoirs distributed with system and intelligence, all united in the quick healthy stream whose headquarters are at Albany.

There are now about 600 traveling libraries in circuit throughout New York; in some places they usefully piece out the struggling independent foundations of small villages; in Plattsburg and elsewhere they have led to the establishment of flourishing

local concerns. Mr Dewey is wishful that small home collections of 5 to 10 books may be distributed to farmhouses, much as similar libraries of 20 volumes or so have been introduced in Boston and Pittsburg. Indeed, this apostle of literature would have not only every household in the state, but every individual, lay claim to proprietorship in the state library. He asks us to use the long-distance telephone whenever in emergency we may find his stores of service; and on moderate terms he proffers extracts from any book or document in his keeping at Albany.

Since 1893 the traveling library has made its way in Ohio, Michigan, Maine, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Iowa, and Wisconsin. In Ohio, during the year ending November 15, 1900, no fewer than 711 boxes were sent out, aggregating 19,505 volumes; the women's clubs, schools, and granges formed more than one half the demand. Proceeding upon a suggestion of Mr C. B. Galbreath, the state librarian, traveling systems are beginning to radiate from local centers; Columbus is in this way serving the rural school districts of Franklin county with 46 itinerant libraries. As far as I am aware, Van Wert county, Ohio, is the first in the United States to levy a tax for the support of a free public library. This follows as a condition of the bequest of \$50,000 by Mr J. S. Brumback for a library building in the city of Van Wert. The trustees have under consideration the sending out traveling libraries to the postoffices in the county, where they will be readily accessible to readers. Where a state has the large area of Ohio, there is evident gain in making a county the unit of a traveling system.

Wisconsin is a community in the main agricultural and widely dispersed; its traveling libraries are directed by Mr F. A. Hutchins, secretary to the state library commission at Madison, an officer of uncommon ability and enthusiasm. He has his reward in seeing benefaction after benefaction offered in furtherance of his aims, in seeing the spirit of self-help which honors so many little communities. The village of Jacksonport contains barely 100 inhabitants—all fisher folk. Instead of asking the loan of a traveling library, the people raised a fund of \$50 and asked the commission to buy a traveling library in their name, and to make their village a traveling library station. Mr Hutchins's success shows the unmistakable importance of a state library commission—rightly manned. A community which seeks aid from the commission may deserve aid; so also may another community, indifferent about the matter until a rousing voice stirs it up to feel what it is missing. The host is wise as well as kind who refuses to take "No" for an answer when he proffers helpful hospitalities. There is good authority for going out into the highways and byways to find guests for a feast.

Thus it comes about that with a depository of literature at the capital of a state, the best and most informing books may find their way to the boy and girl on the lonely farm, and bring equal light to the immigrant's home in the shadow of a factory or mill. And, happily, this trusteeship of literature enlists the individual citizen not less zealously than the state official. Sagacious and scholarly men give generously of time, strength, and means as commissioners, as friends of the new library movement; while literally by thousands must we count the unpaid servants of the people, who act as its librarians throughout the villages and hamlets of the land.

Traveling libraries for propagandizing. Obviously the method that gets books on any subject into people's hands at least cost will be adopted by societies and institutions devoted to the spread of any particular ideas. The collection of the literature of the subject available for reference to members and others interested is usually a first step. Lending single books is the next. Distribution of traveling libraries comes in natural evolution. Those using this method must remember that they will probably be disappointed in the demand and that it will not be easy in all cases to get people to lay aside an interesting novel in order to inform themselves on the subject we think so vital to their welfare, but the method is particularly useful to the propagandist.

Traveling libraries as business ventures. The strength of the system is shown by its adoption as a source of income. People can get better reading for less money in this way than in any other not endowed or supported by the public. Till the public library system is able to meet the demand we welcome the cooperation of those who help to circulate the best books even if their motive be to make money by doing good. These commercial libraries will go the way of the old circulating libraries. A limited number will live to meet the demand of those who wish unusual service and are willing to pay liberally for it. But as the tax-supported high school and public library have brought to an end most of the academies and membership and circulating libraries, so will the traveling library, carried on at public cost and supervised carefully for the public good, do away with similar work carried on only as a source of income.

Selection of books. This is the most important feature of the work. However perfect the administrative machinery and meth-

ods, unless we can readily approximate to the circulation of the best literature which our public will read, our system is not wholly a success. We send with each regular traveling library 100 copies of an annotated catalogue in postal size. These go into the homes. Mere examination of the titles and the brief notes, which are carefully prepared to help the reader decide whether a book is what he wishes, leaves something substantial gained in a birdseye view of the names and character of the books, even though they are not read. These lists are retained to be checked as books are read or as suggestions of what the reader would like to buy for himself. The annotation is the most important feature and promises more than any other method for giving valuable help at trifling cost. It is noticeable that where two catalogues, one with and one without annotation, are sent out from which a committee is to choose a traveling library, the notes insure selection even when the other collection is distinctly better. They certainly are very powerful influences in inducing a desire to read the books.

Best books of the year. Utilizing the important means of annotation, we print each year a bulletin with this prefatory note.

This is an annotated list of 250 books published in the United States in [1900], selected by the book board of the New York state library and recommended to the public libraries of the state. To aid in choosing small collections of new books three classes are marked: books marked *a*, of which there are 20, are suggested to libraries which must confine their additions within narrow limits; 30 others marked *b* are also proposed to libraries prepared to buy 50 books; and 50 more marked *c* may be added to *a* and *b* to make up 100 books.

The remaining 150, including reference books and a few more costly publications, are worthy of careful consideration by libraries prepared to buy more than 100 books and by those wishing to enlarge their resources in special subjects. Many of the unmarked works are of the highest merit. *Decimal classification* numbers are prefixed as a guide to libraries using this system.

All books under the heading "Juvenile" may be used for academic libraries. The general list will also be of much service to schools, but not everything included here is recommended for *school* use. Such a book as Whiteing's *No. 5 John st.* a well written and carefully studied story of the London slums, may be commended to the public library because of its sociologic interest and as a praiseworthy sample of its type, but it is hardly desirable to circulate even the best of slum fiction among school children. The school is better off without much of the current adult fiction which serves a legitimate purpose for the very different constituency of the public library.

This list does not claim to be absolutely the best 250 books of the year, but it is made with great care and with the coopera-

tion and advice of many of the ablest librarians and other students of public reading. The wide circulation of the list has exerted a very marked influence in improving the standards in buying books both for public and private libraries. It is particularly useful in making up traveling libraries.

Education of taste for reading. It is generally understood that a taste for good pictures is a matter of slow development. The cheap, gaudy chromo on the walls of the settler's cabin is often a pioneer. People learn to like good pictures and develop their taste by comparing and recognizing that one is better than another. No progress is made till there is something to compare. So in reading. One who reads nothing has no basis for any preference. Some have been so much impressed by this fact that they are willing to let children or adults read dime novels or "yellow" journals, if necessary, to get the reading habit started. A foothold once gained, progress toward better things may begin. Some eminent librarians have gone so far as to advocate furnishing what most of us call trash for ground bait in order to attract those who they think would not rise to anything higher. We have never encouraged this extreme view, but have felt that the library should offer the best that the reader was ready for. Many readers find their way to the best books only through reading and outgrowing the poorer; the problem before the public library is to decide at what point in this process of growth its work should begin. Only an extremist would suggest that it should furnish the poorest as a beginning for the weakest readers; only an extremist would ask that nothing be supplied but the classics and masters of literature in each field. A recent editorial in *Town and country* represents the opinion of many thoughtful observers in a way to command respect as follows:

In his recent chat upon modern books, Mr Howells has voiced the sentiments of a great many literary and thinking people when he declares that the era of the half million copies novel is but a transition one connecting a period when reading was done by the few with a future time when reading with discernment will be done by the many. The popular book, all thinking people realize, is not necessarily a good book, and the advertisement of the publisher that a novel has sold into the hundreds of thousands does not stamp it as one of literary merit.

Yet the reign of the popular and ephemeral book does not mean a degeneration of literary taste. As Mr Howells says, we must not think the lovers of a half million copy novel are recreant lovers of Hawthorne, or George Eliot, or Mr Thomas Hardy. The most part of them never heard of those men. We may liken our immeasurable mental level to the wild, uncultivated prairie country, which, when men begin to plant it with trees, they first plant with the coarse, rank cottonwood. After a generation or two of cottonwood, they can grow oaks and elms and maples on the prairie, but not at first. You may be sure that the plains in which the literary cottonwoods now flourish have never grown oaks or elms or maples. Up to the time the readers of the recent successes began to read them, they had read dime novels and story papers, or they went to the theaters. And this stage is therefore a hopeful one, for these books reclaim from illiteracy a wide area of humanity and will convert them finally into fields of genuine literature. And so the popular novel, while it has its dangers, is on the whole a hopeful sign and it gives fair promise for the future.

Giving away library books. Most large libraries accumulate in their duplicate or exchange divisions large numbers of soiled or slightly mutilated books, magazines, pamphlets and extra copies which they have no hope either of selling or exchanging for years to come, if ever, and yet hesitate to send to the paper mill, knowing that there are thousands of people who would read and value the books if they could be put in their hands. It is an economic waste for libraries crowded for space to postpone the solution of this problem. Besides the room occupied, time, which is money, is every year spent in cleaning, arranging, inventorying or thinking about these puzzling collections, not quite good enough to sell or exchange, and a little too good to throw away.

Libraries should devote some attention to judiciously giving away material of this kind. Often it is impracticable for the library owning it to reach personally the persons who ought to use it. It is not worth the expense of ordinary library circulation with charges, returns and incidental labor. Help in the beneficent work can be secured from libraries, schools, hospitals, prisons, societies or individuals who appreciate the value of good reading and will be willing to furnish the time and labor if the material can be given them. A circular letter to principals of schools and librarians, explaining what is wanted, would secure

many volunteers willing to undertake to place these surplus books where they would do most good.

Many people have hundreds of the best magazines, clean and in good condition, which they are unwilling to burn up and yet which are greatly in the way. Many magazine publishers have back numbers entirely fresh but beyond any probable demand and would be willing to give them for this use instead of destroying them, because their circulation would make new friends and possible subscribers for the magazine, and for the higher reason that the deliberate destruction of thousands of beautifully printed and illustrated magazines seems a crime in a land where so many are hungry for good reading and where thousands are ruining their eyes over books and newspapers full of poor matter, badly printed, when they would much prefer to read the beautifully printed and illustrated magazines if they had opportunity. A library or school might wisely lend these two or three times till they were either too much soiled or the demand had lessened, when they could be given outright to some one who in turn might later pass them on again, so that a score of readers might possibly see them before they went finally into the waste paper. As the loss would be little if a copy lent was not returned, it would answer very well if no record were kept, but a slip given the borrower requesting him to return the book so that another might have it. Details would be worked out by experience but the principle involved is an organized system by which great quantities of the best books and magazines that are now destroyed may have many more readings. This system should be managed by a few central libraries, but the smaller libraries should be in active cooperation as distributing centers. It is the traveling library idea in the outward direction only. A balloon without a string to pull it back is none the less properly classed with balloons.

Origin of system. It is of very little concern who first suggested a traveling library or any other useful idea. The one to whom credit is given was very unlikely to have been the first. We simply have not chanced to learn of those who thought the same thing before. The germ of the traveling library is as old as the first lending of two or more books together. The thing of practical importance is how to make the method economically available for the largest possible work. If we seem to come back

in these matters to something very similar to what has been used perhaps a century ago, we should remember that we are traveling not in circles but in spirals and that if apparently returning to the same point, we are on a much higher plane and are moving steadily forward in healthful evolution.

Libraries for traveling. It has been asserted that traveling libraries were really initiated by Napoleon and Sir Julius Caesar; but they had simply compact little collections to carry about with them for their personal reading, just as a thousand other persons have carried a few books in their trunks, which in that sense were traveling libraries. They were little libraries and traveled about. If put in a special case for use in a carriage, it even more might deserve the name of traveling library, but it has nothing in common with what is now understood by the term "traveling libraries." Our books are of ordinary size as they are not specially designed for carriages, boats or cars, though the best American trains and steamers are now considered incomplete without a library. Train and boat libraries, like books on ocean steamers and men-of-war, may fairly be called traveling libraries, but a traveling library in the usual sense of the term is one that travels only when not in use. It is for the use of the people and not for the owner's reading. The essential principle is economy and the libraries are traveling merely as a necessary method to secure that economy. After use for a given period by one community, they travel back to the center, are checked over, put in good repair and sent out for service in other fields, but they are not used while they are traveling, whereas the other type of libraries mentioned, from Sir Julius Caesar's down to the Lake Shore limited are never used except when traveling. Peripatetic libraries might have been a better name, leaving the word traveling for the books used by travelers either in public or private conveyances, but the name and the thing are now so well understood and approved that change seems undesirable and probably impracticable. For the origin of the modern traveling library system we must go to those cases where books are used first by one community and then by another till they are worn out in actual service, thus accomplishing the greatest possible good for a given expenditure.

Size. The question of cost both of books and transportation tends to break up our normal library of 100 volumes into two or more. Where books are sent by freight, as they must usually be for economy, 100 pounds go as cheaply as any less weight and for a community library 100 volumes are none too many fairly to represent various subjects and interests. If the library is for a club on a specific subject, the number will be determined largely by the subject. If for a single farmhouse a dozen or 20 books may be as many as can be afforded. We have found it wise to break our unit of 100 volumes into halves and quarters, having adopted a shelf holding about 25 volumes. The fee of \$2 for 25 volumes and \$1 for each additional 25 fits in with this plan and many localities take 100 miscellaneous books with 25 juveniles or 25 more on some special topic.

Fixed or flexible. Instead of discussing which is the better method we should use both as demand requires. Economy requires the use of fixed collections as far as practicable. The selection can be made with more care when done once for all than is practicable when selecting for a single trip. Catalogues can be printed; records can be kept more easily; the work can be done more quickly and cheaply. But there are certain cases where the best results can be gained only by making up the library for the occasion. Reading is on the optional system; unless we make people believe they wish a book they will not read it. If they can be made to see that our selection is really better than theirs it is well, but they might better take a second or third best book which they will read than a better one which they will return unread.

Duplicates. Theoretically it is wise to have enough duplicates of the best books so that readers who prefer the best may have it. There will often be disappointment in the demand for the best books, but it is easy to limit the supply of duplicates to what is found to be the real need. If 20 persons are studying subject A with a traveling library of 100 volumes it seems unwise to say there shall be in that library only one copy of the best book of the 100 for the average reader, or no more than of the poorest. Five or 10 copies of the books most readers will prefer may wisely be included.

Barren fields. With all the great success of the system there are enough exceptions to prove the rule where it is reported that people seem not to care for the libraries. We shall develop soon a class of men and women with wide experience and rare skill who will enjoy dealing with these problems. The seed we sow may bring forth no fruit on the ground where it falls. A good farmer having a similar experience does not continue to plant the same seed on the same land, but uses the seed on another soil and for this ground tries a new crop. With the demand larger than we can supply we must of course give our time first to those ready and eager for our help but later we must find how to reach what are now known as the "library barrens."

Transportation. This is the most practical problem before us at present. Numerous railways have already made concessions. The express companies recognized the claim of the traveling libraries for the blind and on the same principle it is hoped will make concessions to the new committee appointed in 1901 by the American library association to secure lower rates. In Victoria the railway department requires the lines to return books free. In Canada the postoffice department gives free transportation for the Aberdeen society's literature, thus establishing the precedent which should help us in the United States.

Two special movements are being actively pressed with good hope of success. One would make rural free delivery facilities available in distributing books. The other, and most important of all, aims to secure for public libraries, if registered as maintained solely for the public welfare, at least the same pound rates which are granted to newspapers, many of which are maintained solely for selfish motives as a source of profit to owners and regardless of their pernicious influence on the public. We recognize the principle in granting free postage to newspapers within their own county in order to encourage the local press. Certainly in any broad view libraries have the strongest claim on the postal department for cooperation and the lowest rates.

Central offices. A great variety of experiments are now in progress, as a result of which we shall probably in a few years find how to get best results. There is no objection to any individual or association circulating as many libraries as possible if the books are good, but it is highly desirable to determine, if

we can, how to handle any available funds so as to get the largest public return. The national library is taking on many new and important functions, but probably distances are too great and the whole country too vast to expect traveling libraries to be sent out from Washington; though books not elsewhere available will doubtless be lent to responsible libraries or individuals. There seems to be a growing recognition that the state is the natural unit with which to work. In some sections, specially through the south, municipal organization or lack of it may demand recognition of the county as a unit. In many cases local libraries are carrying on an extensive traveling library system in their immediate vicinity. The federations of women's clubs have in many states started systems which they are supporting by voluntary contributions. This movement, like that for free schools, is to secure a public necessity, and while voluntary labor and personal gifts are very desirable in the beginning, they can not be relied on for permanent support.

The public will value more a thing for which it pays. It is doubtful if the state's school system would do it as much good if it had been given it outright by some beneficent multimillionaire. All experience teaches the desirability of "hitching our wagon to a star" as early as practicable by securing recognition from the state that the library is just as essential as the school in popular education. This means support of needed machinery at public expense.

State or local centers. So far as traveling libraries take the place of little branches or delivery stations within a circle where the inhabitants come to the central point frequently for other purposes, it may be best to continue local work, but if the case of books must be boxed and put on the railway, much better work can be secured for a given amount of money by paying a trifle more freight and having one central office for the state rather than to break it up into smaller units. It would be difficult to get competent supervision. Books and administrative machinery must be developed. The saving in time and freight by sending books to an adjoining county instead of to a state center is very trifling, but the extra cost of maintaining several centers is very great.

The lesson to be learned from commerce and manufacturing points very strongly toward the larger unit. Consolidation of a dozen centers in a single state into one strong traveling library office would usually save an even greater percentage than the consolidation of short lines of railway, of scattered factories turning out the same product, and other combinations which have been proved a means to getting better results from a given amount of time and money.

Relations to schools. A total readjustment of the point of view is necessary for most people. We object when one says that the library is a valuable and useful adjunct to the school, putting it on the same plane as a laboratory or gymnasium. We insist that in a broad conception of education the library and school are no longer to be driven tandem but abreast. The library must be recognized not as "something desirable," but as an absolutely necessary complement to the schools in any satisfactory educational system.

What we call "school education" is carried on by elementary and high schools, colleges, professional and technical schools and universities, all assuming that attendance on their courses is the main business of the students. What we term "home education" centers round the library and includes libraries, museums, study clubs, extension teaching, tests and credentials, and involves no change of residence or interruption of regular vocations. Using these words in their broad senses, "libraries" includes the education that comes from reading; museums, what comes from seeing; clubs, what comes from mutual help. The work of the school is for those in attendance on it; the library works with those at home. The school is chiefly for the young; the library is for adults as well, including all from extreme youth to old age. School work is for a limited course; the library is for all of life. School work is compulsory, at least in the lower grades, and is duty under a master; library work is optional and is pleasure under a friend. It calls for joyous exercise of the intellectual powers, which always gives the most rapid and satisfactory development.

Because of these differences and freedom from the disciplinary work of the school, librarians though with longer hours and shorter vacations are less likely to be worn out than teachers. Each has its proper field of work, and librarians have no more

right to expect teachers to carry their own burdens and also take on new ones, than have teachers to ask librarians to perform some of the school functions. Better results are uniformly secured where the library is not under the same board as the schools. Naturally, almost inevitably, school trustees and boards of education feel that the greatest concern of life is the school and they will consider themselves as singularly broadminded if they recognize the library as an unobjectionable or perhaps a very useful hob to the school kite. The best results can come only when the trustees give their whole thought and energy to library interests and believe them as second in importance to none. Library and schools should work in the greatest harmony, but under independent boards.

The great function of the teacher to which he should bend every energy is to give to the pupils under his care a taste for reading. With this, much of the rest will follow. I would vastly prefer my own child to leave school with a strong taste for good books and a record of comparative failure in his studies, than to have him take all the honors in his examinations and begin life with no genuine liking for reading. Huxley has wisely said that to teach our boys and girls to read without provision for what that reading shall be, is as senseless as it would be to teach them the expert use of the knife, fork and spoon with no provision as to their physical food.

Point of view. The old library was a reservoir concerned chiefly with getting in. In our generation the reservoir has been changed into a fountain. The library has been an aggressive force concerned chiefly with giving out. In this work we have often forgotten that reading is not necessarily good. It is a mighty engine exerting the most powerful influence for good or for evil on the human mind. Many a mother is at perfect peace thinking that her boy is on the high road to heaven if only she finds him with his nose in a book, and yet we all know that the reading of bad books is the surest and quickest road to the pit. Our recent work has had to do too much with quantity, too little with quality of library reading. We have made the reservoir into a fountain, but we must give more attention to filtration. The great problem before thoughtful students of librarianship today is not so much how to increase number of volumes circulated, but how to improve

quality, excluding the worst, decreasing the use of the poor, encouraging the good and aiming constantly to lead every reader to the best. The most hopeful efforts are in the direction of careful, unprejudiced, brief notes after book titles in catalogues to help both reader and librarian to know what purpose each book can best serve.

Bulletin on traveling libraries. The remarkable growth of the traveling library in the last few years and the great public interest in its methods seem to call for a special bulletin of information. Therefore Miss Myrtilla Avery, who from the beginning of the New York system has been director's assistant, has at my request prepared a summary of our own methods and of the traveling library systems in other states which have come to our attention in our extensive correspondence and exchange of publications. To look over even in summary all this work will be a valuable introduction to the many who are utilizing the traveling library principle, often in some field as yet untried, but yet likely to get many practical suggestions from the experience of others.

SUMMARY OF NEW YORK AND OTHER TRAVELING LIBRARY SYSTEMS

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Origin. In tracing the beginnings of a successful movement one is often dismayed by the multiplicity and diversity of occurrences which are pointed out as its forerunners. Leaving out of consideration, however, all the vague antecedents of a system which has its roots in the overwhelming demand for the diffusion of education distinguishing the 19th century, we may without doubt see in the collection of religious tracts circulating in Scotland in 1810 a true progenitor of our modern traveling libraries. Five years later these collections were made to correspond still more closely to present ideas by the addition of books on literature and science. Under the name "itinerant libraries" they were lent to towns and villages of East Lothian through the efforts of Samuel Brown of Haddington. In 1825, 19 of these libraries, containing 50 volumes each, circulated among more than 700 borrowers at 15 "stations," each having its own librarian. The annual cost of maintaining the libraries, amounting

to about \$300, was defrayed by subscriptions and the sale of tracts. The system was subsequently adopted in Berwickshire where each reader paid twopence a month toward expenses.¹ In 1830 the plan was still in operation in East Lothian but on a more extensive scale, libraries having increased to 40, stations to 31 and circulation to 10,000 a year.² The fate of these libraries is unknown but they doubtless became merged in the mechanics institutions and similar organizations for popular education which were established in the towns visited by them.

It is also not improbable that some knowledge of the plan was carried to America, for as early as 1831 itinerating libraries were advocated by the managers of the American lyceum and a proposition made for the establishment and maintenance of a county system.³ Though the plan was not put into effect, the idea of utilizing books as widely as possible was not lost sight of and 17 years after we find the American seamen's friend society exchanging libraries among American ships and sending them later to naval hospitals and lifesaving stations. In 1869, the Boston and Albany railroad started its library for employees, thus establishing a system which has since been adopted by other American railroads and corporations.

It is in Australia, however, that we find the earliest traveling libraries equipped according to modern ideas, and the plan put in operation in Melbourne in 1860 is still in existence (see p. 146). 18 years later Oxford began to send out its university extension libraries, in which work it was soon followed by Cambridge. Such were the precedents for traveling libraries, when in 1889 Melvil Dewey, director of the New York state library, outlined a plan for establishing a state system which was not only adopted by the regents of the University and made effective by an annual appropriation from the legislature in 1892, but has served as a working model in greater or less degree for nearly all the systems since established.

¹ See an interesting pamphlet by Lord Brougham entitled *Practical observations on popular education*, Boston, 1826.

See reprint of pamphlet on *Itinerating libraries* by Rev. William Brown M.D. published in New York in 1836 by D. Fanshaw, and referred to in an article on *Forgotten traveling libraries* by S. H. Ranck in *Library journal*, May 1901.

³ See pamphlet on *American lyceum* published in Boston in 1831 by Hiram Tupper; or, Home education bulletin 23, p. 5-7.

The early history of traveling libraries in New York was related at the 1894 meeting of the A. L. A. by W. R. Eastman, inspector of New York libraries and then in charge of traveling libraries in New York. This paper, published in the *Forum*, January 1895, and at once reprinted as circular 32 of the home education department but now out of print, is again given in full.

A NEW AID TO POPULAR EDUCATION: FREE TRAVELING LIBRARIES

BY WILLIAM R. EASTMAN M.A. (YALE) B.L.S. (N. Y.)

The New York state traveling library system is a direct development of the work of the public library. The local library lends one book, the traveling library lends a hundred; the local library lends to a person, the other to a community; one lends for two weeks, the other for six months. In this way the state library becomes the parent of libraries.

This system was made possible by legislation of the state of New York in 1892. The University law of that year authorized the regents to lend for a limited time selections of books, from the duplicate department of the state library or from books specially given or bought for this purpose, to public libraries under state supervision, or to communities meeting required conditions. Out of \$25,000 appropriated for free libraries, a portion was at once set apart by the regents to buy and prepare books to be lent under their rules.

The rules then adopted provide that a selection of 100 books may be lent for six months to the trustees of any public library in the state under regents visitation, on payment of a fee of \$5 to cover expense of cases, catalogues, record blanks, and transportation both ways. Where no such library exists, the books will be lent on petition of any 25 resident taxpayers. In their petition, an owner of real estate must be named as trustee, who must be personally responsible for the books. Libraries may be lent to the officers of a university extension center, reading course, or study club, if registered by the regents. A later rule offers selections of 50 volumes for a fee of \$3.

It was decided to begin with 10 libraries of 100 volumes each. The libraries were chosen with reference to their educational value, without disregarding a reasonable demand for recreation. In these days, fortunately, science is becoming more and more capable of popular illustration, new books of history and travel have the fascination of romance, while fiction is burdened with the most serious problems of humanity; so that in making up a library the task of preserving an even balance between informa-

tion and amusement is by no means so difficult as it would have been 25 years ago. Books of reference and periodicals were ruled out, but a few bright sensible books for children were accepted. The tastes of professional men were not ignored; a few significant books on social science or economics were carefully sought. But all these were a small minority. After these, in order of importance, came books about the useful arts, about natural science, books of travel, biography, letters, history, and fiction, which were added in quantity and quality to suit the needs of "the general reader." It was obvious, too, that the requirements of different communities must greatly vary. There are some communities where even the old familiar books would be unknown; in others nothing but the latest would serve. To meet different needs, three libraries of the 10 were made to include a liberal allowance of the older favorites, such as Scott, Thackeray, Dickens, Holmes, Prescott, and Parkman, which were excluded from the other seven; and one library was made up wholly of the books of the year 1892.

At length, after much revision and consultation at the state library, 1000 volumes were chosen and distributed into 10 groups as nearly equal as possible in the range of subjects, in literary merit, and in attractiveness. The percentage of each kind of literature was: Fiction, 22%; History, 18; Biography, 13; Travel, 11; Science and Useful arts, 9; Sociology, 5; Religion and Ethics, 4; Fine arts, 3; other literature, 15.

Since the first 10 lists were made up, later books have been constantly bought to supply additional libraries. The later libraries have been of 50 volumes instead of 100, to permit the more frequent appearance of a new library and a wider range of choice to the borrower, or the borrowing of a small library at less cost. The choice of books rests with the book board, made up of 5 members of the staff of the New York state library.

In addition to the general libraries, special subject lists have been prepared; a set of 50 and a set of 25 volumes in each subject. Economics, agriculture, French history, and United States history have been already taken up in these selections, besides lists in literature, to cover regents reading courses. The general lists now number 18; the special lists, 9. The university extension libraries also should be noticed. Any registered extension center may obtain \$100 worth of books for reference, selected by their lecturer, on the same terms as a traveling library. The same privilege is extended also to registered study clubs and reading circles. As fast as these books are returned, they are arranged as a distinct library to meet future requisitions.

The first purchase of books consisted of two sets of each of the 10 general libraries. As the demand increased, other sets

of the same were needed, and several have been duplicated 10 times. Cloth bound editions have been used. The price of single volumes has varied from 40 cents to \$5, list price. The average cost is a little less than \$1 a volume.

Books are made ready for circulation as in a well equipped public library. The catalogue note on each book is intended to give in the briefest form a clear idea of its scope and character. Every copy of the printed catalogues contains the rules for local circulation, and these are supplied in quantity with each library sent out. A simple system of charging borrowed books is indicated in the rules, and bookcards and readers cards, specially designed for the purpose, are supplied. All cards are returned to Albany with the books, enabling the central office to keep full statistics of the use of each volume. An oak bookcase, with neatly paneled doors and a lock and key, is furnished with every 50 books. There is sent also a plain oak cabinet with a single drawer with compartments to hold cards, and the like. This outfit, with cards and packing cases, costs about \$14 for every 100 volumes.

The first traveling library went out Feb. 8, 1893. In eight months, up to Oct. 1, 1893, 24 libraries had been sent out. In the second year, up to Oct. 1, 1894, 101 had been sent; a total of 125. They went to 86 places. Of these 125, 43 were sent on petition; 40 to public libraries; 22 to academy libraries open to the public; 18 to university extension centers; 2 to individual borrowers. In all, 11,900 volumes were sent out, of which 9600 were included in general libraries, 950 in subject libraries, and 1350 in university extension libraries. 44 of these libraries, aggregating 4400 volumes, are still out, leaving 7500 volumes which have been returned without any loss or serious injury. One missing book, costing 70 cents, was paid for by a trustee.

Complete statistics of the circulation of 5300 volumes are at hand. Their total circulation was 15,358, an average of 290 readers to each 100 volumes, in a period of six months. The smallest circulation was 66, the largest 609. One 50 volume library circulated 338. The number of borrowers was 4392, showing an average of three and a half books to a reader. The details of circulation of the different libraries show great variation.

The library which had a circulation of 609 in one place had 186 in another; that which had 598 in one place had 122 elsewhere. The library that had but 66 in one place had 476 in another, showing that the circulation was determined by local conditions. Let us note a few examples. The library that reached the highest mark of 609 in 6 months was in the small village of Havana, in Schuyler county, where a library association had been

organized by women a few years ago and had 400 or 500 well-read books. But their books were growing old, subscribers were few, and they were at the point of discouragement when they petitioned for a traveling library, and made their own library free. The next highest circulation—of 598—was reached in Ogdensburg, where a newly chartered public library of 3000 volumes is under the care of the principal of the public schools, who, with his teachers, has guided an enthusiastic group of readers. Three successive libraries have gone to an academy in Canandaigua, and, under like active influences, have reached circulations of 339, 504, and 476. At Peru, a small station on the Ausable railroad where books were very scarce, a circulation of 490 was recorded, one reader taking 38. The lowest circulation of 66 was in a place where the demand was cut off by a prosperous library of 5000 volumes. 19 places have already had two successive libraries, five places have had three, Fort Plain has had four, and Plattsburg five. From this beginning Plattsburg has now a promising public library just chartered, whose trustees are preparing for use their first purchase of \$400 worth of books. Six public libraries chartered within the year began by petitioning for traveling libraries.

Many interesting items might be gleaned from the record of individual books. For example, Mrs Burnett's *Surly Tim* had 14 readers in one place, and 11, 9, 3, and 2 in others, and none at all in another. *That lass o' Lowrie's* was taken out by 17 in one town, and 15, 4, 2, 6, and 12 in others. *Henry Esmond* was read 10 times, and the *Virginians* 9 times in one place, and neither was called for in another. The circulation of fiction was 52% of all; but the books of fiction in the library were only 22%.

In the department of travel the popular books are: *The west from a car window*, 18 readers; *Boy travellers in Africa*, 16; *Tramp across the continent*, 15; *On Canada's frontier*, 14; *Tenting on the plains*, 12; *Knockabout club on the Spanish main*, 12. In popular science, only one goes above 11, and that is *Feathers, furs and fins*, at 16 calls; *Electricity in daily life* has 10; *Horse stories*, 11.

Books on social science were usually read by two or three persons in a place. The highest records in this class are: *How the other half lives*, 8 readers; *Children of the poor*, 6; *Who pays your taxes?* 6; *Girls and women*, 6. In biography, the favorites are: Butterworth's *Lincoln*, 13 readers; Coffin's *Lincoln*, 11; Holmes's *Ralph Waldo Emerson*, 11; Hale's *New England boyhood*, 11; Schurz's *Lincoln*, 10. Plainly, Lincoln is the hero. In other literature, *Over the teacups* had 15 readers; *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court*, 13; *My summer in a garden*, 10. In history the war stories are in the ascendant. Page's *Among the camps* had 17 readers; *Boys of '61*, 13; *Blue jackets of '76*, 11; *Battlefields and victory*, 10; *Battlefields of '61*, 8.

A list of the neglected books is not without interest; but a large number of trials would be needed for a fair comparison. When library no. 10 had gone out and returned 10 times, there was but one of its books unused in any place. That was Adams's *Three episodes of Massachusetts history*. This would not have occurred in 10 Massachusetts towns. In the same library Merry's *Select fragments of Roman poetry*, a book in Latin, had a reading in three different places. Keene's *Literature of France* was read in only one place, but by two readers. The number of neglected books is always reduced by further returns.

There is little to choose between the libraries in regard to popularity. The most popular has been the library which consists wholly of books published in 1892. But if the library that stands at the foot of the list in popularity had gone to the same places as the other libraries, I have no doubt it would have stood as high.

If, now, we turn to see how many books were taken by a single reader in six months, we find in one place, Peru, 38 books charged to one name. At Harkness, the next station to Peru, a girl of 13 took 32 books, and a neighbor's boy of 15 took 25. Other places show readers who handled 31, 27, and 24 books each. We can not be sure that they read them, but it indicates at least the insatiable book hunger that prevails in some localities.

As a general indication of the appreciation with which the traveling libraries have been regarded by those who have used them, a few expressions are quoted from letters received:

"There was a great deal of interest in our last library, and I believe, when we get another, nearly all the books will be out at once."

"This is a country school district. Some of our people have never read books of any kind, and few have had the opportunity to read books like these."

"We shall certainly get another next winter and every winter."

"The number of readers of our local library has increased tenfold."

"Increased interest in every direction. . . It has led to the establishment of a reading room."

We may say that 25,000 books have been read as a result of these traveling libraries. They have been good books and have left their mark on a multitude of minds. These libraries have everywhere promoted an interest in good reading, and have already led to the establishment of some important local libraries. They have been cordially received and are more in demand now than ever before. As a public investment they have fully vindicated the wisdom of their projectors and have proved worthy of the continued interest of the state. The system admits, too, of indefinite enlargement. Special subject libraries may be multiplied as fast as they are wanted; and the addition of general libraries can keep pace with the publication of good books. The state of New York can well afford this offer of books to her citizens, which is at once generous and, in the highest sense,

profitable; and the plan is confidently commended to the consideration of other states.

At the time this paper was written, September 1894, no other state system of traveling libraries was in existence. Subsequent pages of this bulletin show how widely and with what vigor the idea has taken root in the United States in the seven years which have since elapsed. In response to numerous questions as to the New York plan the methods now in operation are explained in detail.

NEW YORK

BORROWERS

There are 5 classes of borrowers recognized:

1 **Libraries.** Any public library under regents visitation on application of its trustees. The following blank is signed:

LIBRARY APPLICATION FOR TRAVELING LIBRARY

To the Traveling libraries division

a free public library in... under regents visitation applies for traveling library no...

Bookcases are not needed. [Cross out "not" if bookcases are needed.]

The traveling library will be returned within six months from its reception, regents rules will be strictly observed and any losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear, as provided in Traveling library rules, will be made good.

Our librarian is...

Dated at

190

(For the trustees)

Secretary

DEDUCTION FROM PUBLIC MONEY

Libraries receiving money regularly from state grants may either pay the fee in cash or have it deducted from the next grant by filling in the following form with the signature of the president of trustees.

I certify that the trustees have authorized the deduction from our next appropriation of the fee of \$... for the above traveling library.

Dated at

190

President of trustees

On the reverse is printed:

LIBRARIAN'S AGREEMENT FOR TRAVELING LIBRARY

As librarian of traveling library no... when lent to... I hereby agree to care properly for the books while under my control, to circulate them in accordance with regents rules and to make any required reports respecting their use.

Dated at

190

Librarian

SHIPPING DIRECTIONS

Send by freight to

(*Street address*)

(*Town*)

(*County*)

2 Communities. Any community without a public library on application of 25 resident taxpayers. The following blank is signed by the applicants:

TAXPAYERS APPLICATION FOR TRAVELING LIBRARY

To the Traveling libraries division

The undersigned, resident taxpayers of...in which there is no public library under regents visitation, apply for the loan of a traveling library. We name...whom we know to be a responsible owner of real estate, to act for us as trustee.

We agree that as soon as public interest warrants, we will take steps to establish a free public library, in accordance with laws of 1892, ch. 378, § 36.

(Signatures of 25 taxpayers)

On the reverse is printed:

I hereby certify that each of the 25 persons whose names are signed to the foregoing petition is a resident taxpayer in this town.

(Signed)

Dated at

190

Town clerk of

The following agreement is signed by the responsible owner of real estate named by the taxpayers:

TRUSTEE'S AGREEMENT FOR TRAVELING LIBRARY

To the Traveling libraries division

Having been named in the application of 25 resident taxpayers of dated...190...to act as trustee of traveling libraries lent to them by the University of the State of New York, I hereby apply for traveling library no.... I agree to observe regents rules, to return the library within six months from its reception and to make good any losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear as provided in Traveling library rules.

I name...to be librarian.

Dated at

190

Trustee

On the reverse are printed the librarian's agreement and shipping directions.

3 Schools. Any regents school, on application of the principal. The following blank is signed:

SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR TRAVELING LIBRARY

To the Traveling libraries division

an institution in the University, applies for a traveling library of...volumes on...

Bookcases are not needed. [Cross out "not" if bookcases are needed.]

The traveling library will be returned before July 1, 190...regents rules will be strictly observed, and any losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear, as provided in Traveling library rules, will be made good.

Dated at

190

Principal

On the reverse is printed:

Send by freight to

(Street address)

(Town)

(County)

SHIPPING DIRECTIONS

DEDUCTION FROM PUBLIC MONEY

Regents schools may either pay the fee in cash or have it deducted from the next grant by filling in the following form with the signature of the president of trustees.

I certify that the trustees have authorized the deduction from our next apportionment of the fee of \$... for the foregoing traveling library.

Dated at

190

President of trustees

4 Registered organizations. Any registered extension center, summer school or study club on application of the secretary and the guaranty of a responsible owner of real estate that the books will be returned in good condition at the time specified. The following blank is signed:

APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION TRAVELING LIBRARY

To the Traveling libraries division

an organization registered by the regents, applies for a traveling library of ...volumes on...

Bookcases are not needed. [Cross out "not" if cases are needed.]

Our librarian is...

The traveling library will be returned before July 1, 190...regents rules will be strictly observed, and any losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear, as provided in Traveling library rules, will be made good.

Dated at

190

(For the officers)

Secretary

The undersigned being a resident of the state of New York owning real estate therein assessed for not less than \$1000, hereby indorses the above application and binds himself and his heirs and assigns to make good any loss that may occur through failure of the borrowers to observe the agreement, provided that the total responsibility shall not exceed \$100.

Dated at

190

On the reverse are printed the librarian's agreement and shipping directions.

5 Other organizations. Any club, grange, lodge, post, business corporation or similar organization not falling in the other groups but recorded by the regents as needing books not otherwise available, on application of the responsible officer and satisfactory guaranty or deposit of \$100. Only libraries not needed

by other applicants may be lent to this group and such libraries after 3 months are subject to recall if needed elsewhere. The following blank is signed:

GUARANTOR'S APPLICATION FOR TRAVELING LIBRARY

To the Traveling libraries division

I hereby apply for traveling library no...for use of...

I agree to observe regents rules, to return the library after three months if notified that it is wanted for use elsewhere, and to make good any losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear, as provided in Traveling library rules.

Bookcases are not needed. [Cross out "not" if cases are needed.]

Dated at

190

On the reverse is printed:

The undersigned being a resident of the state of New York, owning real estate therein assessed for not less than \$1000, hereby indorses the foregoing application and binds himself and his heirs and assigns to make good any loss that may occur through failure of the borrower to observe the foregoing agreement, provided that the total responsibility shall not exceed \$100.

Dated at

190

SHIPPING DIRECTIONS

Send by freight to

(Street address)

(Town)

(County)

BOOKS

59,339 volumes are now (May 1, 1901) accessioned in the traveling libraries division, of which 53,432 are in the form of traveling libraries, 4993 are shelved with the state library collection and kept for lending to capitol employees and to institutions of the University and 914 have been sold or withdrawn. There are two distinct traveling library collections; one, intended for circulation among local free libraries and communities in which there is no library, is made up of fixed groups of 25, 50 or 100 volumes, each of which has a printed annotated catalogue; the other, intended for circulation among schools and study clubs, is called the extension collection, the nucleus being the books originally bought for extension centers when the extension work was started under state supervision in 1891.

Fixed groups. There are now 44 miscellaneous groups containing usually about 30% of fiction, with 8% to 15% each of natural and social science, biography, history and travel. The first 10

already described on p. 45 contain 100 volumes each and were selected when the plan was being put in operation in 1892. The next 5 each contain 50 volumes of recent publications. No. 16, called the Mountainside library, was selected by Edward Eggleston for a small town on Lake George and contains 102 volumes, 48 of which are fiction. Of the 29 libraries remaining, each of 16 was made up of 50 of the best volumes published since the library immediately preceding was selected; 2 of these, no. 17 and 18, like numbers 1-16, contain a few juvenile books, but beginning with no. 19, books for young people and for adults are grouped separately. There are 9 selections for young people, each containing 25 volumes. Libraries 39 and 40 each have 50 volumes of standard reading of which 25 are fiction. These 2 libraries, like the Mountainside library, are popular in small and remote villages.

In addition to these libraries of miscellaneous reading there are 15 subject libraries in fixed groups. 25 volumes of popular reading on sociology, child study and American literature were selected at the request of the state W. C. T. U. for the special use of its branches. The New York household economic association selected 50 volumes on household science. After consultation with specialists, libraries of 25 and 50 books have been made on political economy, agriculture and U. S. history, 25 volumes on education and on South Africa; 50 each on money, French history and the Spanish war. Each of the fixed libraries, both subject and miscellaneous, have been duplicated from one to 10 times. Duplicate sets are marked by a lower case letter following the number of the library.

Extension collection. By far the greater number of subject libraries, however, do not remain in fixed groups but are selected with reference to subjects to be studied by clubs or in schools. Books for this purpose now number 37,948 volumes and are arranged by the *Decimal classification*, duplicates being shelved side by side. When an outline of study is accepted, the books best adapted to its requirements are taken from the extension collection and grouped in libraries of 25, 50, 75 or 100 volumes, according to the number applied for, and on their return to Albany are distributed on the shelves, to go out again in other groups. Maps,

charts and music scores are included, but not textbooks, dictionaries and encyclopedias.¹

When pictures or other illustrative material are included, the collection is called an environment library as it has helps not only for the subject directly under consideration, but also for topics naturally connected with it, so that the library shows the literary environment of the subject. An environment library on Longfellow's *Hiawatha* includes books about Longfellow, his home and surroundings, about Indian customs and costumes, and about the localities mentioned, with pictures of these subjects as well as Indian and other relics made interesting by association with the topics suggested in the poem.

PREPARATION OF BOOKS FOR CIRCULATION

A brief account of all processes is given here. In some respects this part of the work is influenced by its connection with the New York state library and would not be recommended for independent or smaller systems.

Selection. Books are selected by an assistant specially appointed for that work and are voted on by the book board of the state library. Approved lists of books wanted by schools, clubs or other applicants are bought when funds permit. In deciding on fixed groups the advice of specialists is obtained.

Ordering. Orders are sent directly to publishers and are copied in a letter book.

Accessioning. The A. L. A. condensed accession book is used and every column is filled except that for pages. Entries are made in order of the bill. The accession number is stamped in the book on the page following the titlepage and on the back of the catalogue card.

Classifying. The decimal system is used in full except for libraries in fixed groups when the abridged decimal number is assigned.

Cataloguing. The standard P card, 7½x12½ cm in size, is used with full author entry, as a copy of this card is inserted in the state library catalogue. On the card for the traveling library

¹For farther information in regard to study club work under direction of the home education department, see University handbook 10, *Study clubs*.

catalogue publisher and price also are given. Added entries are made for editor and translator. On the back of the main author card the accession number is stamped and the number of the library or the letter E (to denote extension collection) is added in red ink.

In printed catalogues, entries are made under the best known form of name, subject fulness is used, and the only cataloguing facts noted are illustrations, place, date, publisher and price. A descriptive note follows each title.

Shelf list. The printed catalogues serve as shelf lists for fixed groups. The shelf list for the extension collection is on cards. The entries give author, brief title and accession numbers and are filed by class number.

Marks of ownership. The titlepage and all illustrations from plates are stamped "New York state traveling library, Albany." Inside the front cover is pasted a bookplate, 5x7½ cm in size, printed as follows:

Subject

University of the State of New York

New York State Library
ALBANY

TRAVELING LIBRARY

Book

Labels on the back are 5 cm from the bottom. Libraries in fixed groups are arranged in order and marked with Van Everen numbers. For the extension collection, Dennison labels are used and are marked with class number and author's name (in biography, name of person written about).

Book cards and pockets. A book card containing author, title, class number and number of library is placed in the Acme book pocket which is pasted inside the back cover with this note printed on it: Notes, corrections of the text, or marks of any kind on books belonging to the state, are unconditionally forbidden and all losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear however caused, must be promptly adjusted by the person to whom the book is charged.

Illustrations of book cards for fixed groups and for the extension collection follow.

BOOK CARD
(Fixed groups)

Book	Author	Title			
50	Sinclair	Two years on the Alabama			
Date lent	Borrower's name	Date returned	Date lent	Borrower's name	Date returned

New York State Traveling Library, No. 29 (973.7) Card 1

BOOK CARD
(Extension collection)

Book	Author	Title			
299.97	Réville	Native religions of Mexico			
Date lent	Borrower's name	Date returned	Date lent	Borrower's name	Date returned

New York State Traveling Library, No. E 100-100000 Card 1

LIBRARY OUTFIT

With each library is sent a package of readers cards, some extra book cards, return labels, a charging tray and a bookcase. Printed annotated catalogues are sent with libraries in fixed groups only; a typewritten list accompanies libraries made up from the extension collection. Illustrations of readers cards and return labels follow.

Surname
Street and no.

Given name

No.

Being a resident of _____ over 12 years of age, I hereby agree, as a borrower from the NEW YORK STATE TRAVELING LIBRARIES, to pay promptly any fines due from me for overdetection of books or for injuries of any kind beyond reasonable wear to any book while it is charged to me.

.....190

Name signed.....

Date borrowed	Book	Date returned	Date borrowed	Book	Date returned	Date borrowed	Book	Date returned

(Package label)

Traveling Libraries and Pictures

State Library and Home Education

University of the State of New York

Albany N. Y.

Charging tray. With each library is supplied an oak case, 11x25x32 cm, in which slides a drawer with lock and key and with compartments for card records of the library. The cost is \$2.50. Charging trays are packed with books and are not returned if another library is expected.

Bookcases. Polished oak bookcases have each one shelf and a lock and key. The 25 volume case is 24x40x57 cm in size and costs \$3.58; the 50 volume case is 24x80x57 cm in size and costs \$4.68. Copies of the following state laws against injury and detention of library books, printed in large type on 20x25 cm cards, are tacked inside the doors of the cases.

PENALTY FOR INJURIES TO PROPERTY

Laws of 1892, ch. 378, § 43

Whoever intentionally injures, defaces or destroys any property belonging to or deposited in any incorporated library, reading room, museum, or other educational institution, shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison for not more than three years, or in a county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$500, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

PENALTY FOR DETENTION OF PROPERTY

Laws of 1892, ch. 378, § 44

Whoever wilfully detains any book, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, manuscript or other property belonging to any public or incorporated library, reading room, museum, or other educational institution, for 30 days after notice in writing to return the same, given after the expiration of the time which by the rules of such institution, such article or other property may be kept, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1, nor more than \$25, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding six months, and the said notice shall bear on its face a copy of this section.

Packing boxes. As the bookcases are not made to stand wear and tear, and are not returned with books when another library is expected, books and cases are shipped separately in heavy pine boxes, well clamped and provided with covers which screw on. Case boxes are made with side grooves in which slide the hinges of the bookcase, which is thus held firmly in transportation. They are in 3 sizes to hold one 25 volume case, one and two 50 volume cases respectively, and cost 53c, 84c, and \$1.12. Bookcase keys are sent in an envelop tacked inside the box cover. Book boxes are in the following sizes: 25x35x40 cm [10x14x16 in.], 40c; 38x38x45 cm [15x15x18 in.], 55c; 35x40x60 cm [14x16x24 in.], 66c; 38x45x75 cm [15x18x30 in.], 84c.

CONDITIONS OF LENDING

The library must be kept in a convenient place and be open for delivering and returning books for at least 1 hour of 3 days of each week, of which due public notice shall be given. Some modification of this rule is permitted to schools and clubs but under no circumstances may any charge be made for use of books.

Fees. The fee is \$2 for 25 books and \$1 for each additional 25 sent in the same shipment. This covers transportation and entitles the borrower to bookcases, charging tray, printed catalogues, blanks and cards.

Transportation. Boxes are sent by freight except when express is cheaper and transportation both ways is paid by the state.

Time limit. The period for which books are lent is 6 months except for schools and clubs which may retain them till the end of the year's course of study. Other borrowers may keep libraries longer than 6 months by permission and payment of \$1 for each additional 2 months or fraction.

Circulation. The following suggestive rules for circulation are sent with each library.

Readers. After signing the agreement any resident of the locality over 12 years of age may draw books as long as he complies with the rules.

Persons less than 12 years of age, or residing outside the locality to which the library is lent, shall be entitled to the same privileges when their agreements are indorsed by the trustee. In agreements of those under 12, the actual age must be written instead of the figures 12 in the printed form.

Books. One volume may be drawn by each reader and kept two weeks.

Fines. A fine of one cent a day shall be paid for each book kept over time, and any money thus received shall be used under direction of the trustees for library expenses. No book shall be lent to any one to whom a book or an unpaid fine is charged.

Reserves. A reader wishing a book not at the time on the shelves may have it reserved for him at least 48 hours after its return, by giving notice to the librarian.

Renewal. A reader returning a book which is not reserved may renew it for two weeks.

Injuries. Notes, corrections of the text or marks of any kind on books belonging to the state are unconditionally forbidden; and all losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear, however caused, must be promptly adjusted to the satisfaction of the trustee by the person to whom the book is charged. Borrowers are held responsible for all losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear, except that, if the building in which the library is kept is burned, the guarantor is not held responsible for books destroyed with the building. Books are not considered injured

"beyond reasonable wear" when binding or leaves are loose, worn or soiled by use; but books returned after having been wet, torn, gnawed, marked with pen or pencil, daubed with paint or sticky substances, with book plates or pockets marked or torn, or with leaves or illustrations missing are considered injured beyond reasonable wear, and the trustee must either pay the damages assessed by the traveling libraries division or buy the book at two thirds the list price. Librarians are asked to withdraw from circulation books with loose leaves and either repair them or return them to Albany for rebinding. Fresh labels are supplied on application.

CARE AND USE

The following suggestions for shelf arrangement and a charging system are sent to the librarian. Though applying primarily to fixed groups, as libraries made up from the extension collection are not intended for general circulation, the plan can with slight modifications be used for extension libraries.

Shelf arrangement. Arrange books on shelves in order of book numbers on backs.

Readers cards. See that readers cards are properly signed and if necessary indorsed. If readers are under 12 years, cross out 12 and write actual age. Fill out all other items indicated on face of card; *surname of reader, given name, number, residence and date*, using ink if practicable.

Alphabet these cards in the tray by surnames. A numerical register of readers is useful in assigning consecutive numbers to avoid repeating a number.

Book cards. Each book has a book card with book number, author and title written plainly at the top. Keep this, when not in use, in its pocket inside the back cover.

Keep together in the tray arranged by book numbers all book cards belonging to books in circulation.

Charging. When a book is given out, enter in the proper column on the book card, date of delivery and borrower's name or number and place the card in the tray.

Write on the readers card date and number of book borrowed and return it to the file. The number is in all cases on the back of the book and also on the book plate and book card. In subject libraries this consists of subject and author number combined.

If two or more libraries are in use at one time, write on the book card *both library and book number*; e. g. 11-5 or 12-15.

Do not skip any spaces or lines. When the face of the card is full, use the back. Use the card found in the book pocket till it is full, and then make a new book card numbering it "card 2." Preserve and return "card 1" for statistics.

Dates. Use the following method of dating and abbreviations for months:

Ja F Mr Ap My Je Jl Ag S O N D e. g. 21 Jl, 28 Ja. The year should be written at head of column.

Discharging. When a book is returned, take its book card from the tray, write date of return and place it in the book. Write date of return also on the readers card and return it to the file.

Renewal. To renew a book, enter its return and the charge exactly as if drawn for the first time.

Reserves. To reserve a book, write (in pencil) on its card, in the space for the next borrower, the name of the reader asking the reserve and return the card to the tray. When the book is returned, notify immediately the person for whom it is reserved and keep the book for him till the close of the first library day ending not less than 48 hours after sending the notice. If not called for within the time specified, erase the name and return the card to the book.

Overdue books. At least once a week examine readers cards for overdue books and promptly notify any one more than a week in arrears, collecting the fine on return of the book. Do not lend a book to anyone having a fine unpaid.

Reports. Carefully keep and return all book cards to the traveling libraries division. If a new supply of cards is needed, send for them promptly.

OFFICIAL RECORDS

The plans adopted form a double entry charging system with the addition of an application book.

Application book. Applications in order of reception are entered in a book 20x25 cm in size, containing the following headings running across two pages facing each other.

No.	Place	Corres- pondent	Librarian	Directions for sending	Date and kind of ap- plication (public library, 25 taxpay- ers, school, etc.)	Date and amount of fee
-----	-------	--------------------	-----------	---------------------------	--	------------------------------

Library wanted	Library sent	Catalogues	Tray	Cases	Book cards	Readers cards	Date of sending	Remarks
-------------------	-----------------	------------	------	-------	---------------	------------------	--------------------	---------

Place cards. Cards $7\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm, arranged by places show what libraries each borrower has had and refer by number to the corresponding entry in the application book. The headings of this card are:

Place				Librarian					
Lib.	Application		Date				Readers	Circ'n	
	No.	Kind	Sent	Received	Notice	Returned			

Cards for places which temporarily have no libraries are filed together and called non-active.

Library cards. Cards $7\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm are used for each library in a fixed group and show where each library is or has been. A figure in the number column refers to the application book. The headings on this card are:

Library								
Application		Place	Date		Readers	Circ'n		
No.	Kind		Sent	Returned				

Cards for libraries on the shelves are filed together, the miscellaneous groups arranged by number and letter followed by subject groups in class order. Cards for libraries out are arranged by the month when they are to be returned.

A duplicate of the typewritten list of books sent with libraries made up from the extension collection is filed under name of borrowing body.

Receipt cards. When a library is shipped a return postcard containing the following announcement is sent to the borrower:

Albany 190

Please acknowledge on the attached card the package sent by freight prepaid to you today.

The return portion contains the following blank form for acknowledgment:

Received in good order on _____ 190 , as a loan from the New York state library books marked Traveling library no. _____ one oak charging tray and bookcases.

(Signature)

This card when signed and returned is filed as a receipt for the library.

Return notices. Early in each month all libraries due the next month are recalled by the following notice:

To the librarian:

Traveling library no...received by you...190...is due...and should be returned promptly by freight to Traveling libraries division, Albany N. Y. Package labels are inclosed.

Please pack boxes as carefully as when sent to you, returning all packing boxes. Books and cases must not be packed together. To guard against misunderstanding, books returned should be carefully compared with the list sent.

Return all book cards with books as they are needed for statistics.

If you expect to have another traveling library within six months, retain charging tray and cases, with packing box for cases.

In applying for a new library, the taxpayers petition need not be repeated, but all other agreements must be signed, and fee paid as at first.

RECEIVING

This word includes all processes from opening returned boxes to distribution of books on shelves. Libraries in fixed groups are arranged by numbers on back, and extension books are checked up from the typewritten list. Missing books are noted, and worn or damaged books are withdrawn for repairs.

Mending. Torn leaves are mended with onionskin paper pasted with Day's Diamond gluey paste. If part of a leaf is torn out entirely it is replaced by a piece matching the paper, on which are typewritten the missing words. If several succeeding leaves are loose they are sewed together and the first and last leaves fastened in with muslin strips about 1 cm wide. Loose covers also are fastened with muslin strips. Soiled pages and edges of books are cleaned with soft erasers. Linen covers are cleaned with damp cloths. When the cover or sewing is much broken the book is sent to the bindery.

SUMMARY OF USE

The first traveling library in New York was sent to the Albany extension center in January 1892. It contained 43 volumes on political economy, recommended by Prof. J. W. Jenks of Cornell who gave a course of 10 lectures on practical economic questions. In the same month two more extension libraries were sent; one of 35 volumes for the course on English literature by Prof. H. H. Boyesen at Yonkers; the other of 17 volumes for the English literature course at Gloversville.

The first library of miscellaneous reading was sent on Feb. 8, 1893, to Charlton, a village in Saratoga county, on petition of 25 taxpayers. The first school in the state to receive a traveling library was Dundee high school, to which library 2 was sent Feb. 8, 1893. The first public library to receive one was Port Jervis to which no. 5 was sent Feb. 27, 1893. The first study club library, containing 51 volumes on French history, was sent Dec. 13, 1894 to the Home culture club of Littlefalls. A summary of number of volumes sent out each year ending Oct. 1, follows:

Borrowers	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96	1896-97	1897-98	1898-99	1899-1900
Public libraries.....		700	3 262	2 435	4 081	4 560	3 181	2 781	3 321
25 taxpayers.....		800	3 585	4 502	5 242	6 732	6 777	7 520	6 679
Schools		906	1 184	1 602	2 010	3 081	7 338	7 144	8 681
Extension centers	417	1 029	1 293	1 531	1 336	602	504	281	293
Summer schools ..			158	511	652	895	1 235	1 132	855
Study clubs			51	2 251	6 284	7 404	10 273	11 634	12 303
Guarantors			200	1 114	1 978	2 124	3 346	1 879	3 597
Total	417	3 429	9 733	13 946	21 583	25 398	32 654	32 371	35 624

TRAVELING PICTURES

The home education department has now (May 1, 1901) for lending to schools, libraries and study clubs, 1255 wall pictures, 11,196 photographs mounted on 28x35 cm [11x14 in.] cards, 14,422 lantern slides and 18 lanterns. Though considered part of the New York state traveling libraries this work is so large in itself that it is treated in separate bulletins and circulars. An illustrated list of 100 wall pictures carefully selected for high schools in conference with a large advisory committee was issued in December 1900 as bulletin 32 of the home education department and another bulletin containing subject lists of small pictures and lantern slides is in preparation. Circulars 38 and 40 contain brief statements of the plan of lending, with list of 100 wall pictures.

OTHER AMERICAN SYSTEMS

As the traveling library resources of the various states have during the last 5 years become a matter of general interest, descriptions of systems designed for operation within the limits of a single state, are grouped in geographic arrangement. Besides the recognized forms of traveling libraries, a few allied agencies having distinctive traveling library features have been included. Some of these have been placed in the state groups but the greater number follow in a separate division as their activity is usually less influenced by territorial considerations than by the employment or circumstances of the persons benefited. The arrangement of states is by sections according to the *Decimal classification*.

MAINE

State library. The movement for a law providing for traveling libraries, begun by the Dial club of Fairfield and afterward warmly supported by the state federation of women's clubs, resulted in 1899 in a law creating a library commission of 5 members and authorizing the state librarian to lend books to responsible citizens on payment of transportation. \$1000 is appropriated annually for traveling libraries to be equipped and circulated by the state librarian, who is ex-officio secretary of the commission. On application of the officers of any free library in the state, or any association of 5 or more members, and on payment in advance of 10 cents a volume, a traveling library may be lent for 6 months. In order to reduce labor and expense of rearranging books while still giving opportunity for individual selection, each library is in 2 sections of 25 volumes, each section having a separate printed finding list. Some of the sections are collections on special subjects, but most are general and contain 3 volumes on history, 3 on biography, 2 on travel, 2 on science, 3 on literature, 2 on religion and sociology and 10 of fiction. 1 entire library is on Maine and another is on ancient Rome and modern Italy. Valuable aid in circulating the libraries is received from the state federation of women's clubs. In 1900 the 42 libraries containing 2100 volumes were sent to 42 places, mostly small towns of less than 1000 inhabitants.

VERMONT

Free library commission. As a result of the work of the women's clubs of Vermont, the legislature in 1900 passed an act authorizing the library commissioners to establish traveling libraries and to spend \$600 a year for books and equipment. Any 3 or more citizens may form an association and on complying with the rules may borrow traveling libraries. Local libraries, clubs, societies, associations, granges and extension centers may, at the discretion of the commission, borrow on the same terms.

The commission began work with traveling libraries given by women's clubs and sent out the following circular of information from its headquarters at St. Johnsbury:

The Vermont free library commission has been empowered to buy a number of traveling libraries which it can lend to small libraries, or to library associations in farming communities and small villages. Each of these libraries contains from 30 to 40 volumes of interesting and wholesome books. It will remain in a community for 6 months and must then be returned to the commission, to be exchanged for another if desired.

To secure the visits of these libraries the people of a community must first organize a library association which shall include at least 3 responsible citizens. They must elect a secretary who shall be authorized to receive the libraries and return them, and who is empowered to act as their agent in dealing with the commission. They shall also elect a librarian (though the secretary may act as librarian) who shall have charge of the libraries which the association may receive. The secretary and at least two other responsible members shall sign an application promising:

- 1 To pay expenses of transportation of these libraries from and to St. Johnsbury and to provide a suitable and convenient place in which to keep them.
- 2 That the books of these libraries shall be loaned without charge to any persons in the community who will observe the rules made by the commission.
- 3 That the association will be responsible for the safe return of the books of the library in good condition except for unavoidable wear and tear.

The libraries will be sent by express.

Of the 11 libraries now available 2 are duplicated. 2 contain 50 volumes each and the rest average 30 volumes. Finding lists are in preparation. Books are shipped in maple boxes having two shelves and a removable front so that they may be used as bookcases.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston, Women's education association. In 1894 this organization began to supplement the work of the Massachusetts free public library commission by sending traveling libraries and pictures to small towns. Under the law \$100 worth of books as the nucleus of a public library may be given to any town which will thereafter make an annual appropriation according to the assessed valuation, and by this plan nearly every town has a local library. After a few years, however, interest in these books decreases or fails entirely and the annual appropriation is too small to permit buying many new books. By sending a traveling library to supplement the town library, the association aims to rouse interest and to foster it till the library becomes firmly supported by the citizens. It aims also to create a desire for a free public library in the few towns in which they do not as yet exist.

In a paper read recently before the Bay Path library club and printed in the *Springfield daily republican*, Ap. 17, 1901, a member of the library committee of the association said:

Some of these towns are very small and isolated, and the letters from the town clerks or librarians show that the books are fully appreciated. When a library has become so firmly ingrafted on a town that outside assistance of this sort is no longer needed, the traveling library is withdrawn and the way is left open for effort of another kind, in the direction of special libraries. The special library, as now constituted, consists of a collection of books and photographs on some popular artistic subject. The first of these was prepared in 1898, and consisted of 17 books and 49 photographs descriptive of the city of Venice. It met with instant success, and a similar library on Florence was next issued. They have been hung, a few at a time, in the library, so that the callers may expect to see something different at each visit; they have been sent in the portfolios to invalids or people living at a distance, and to teachers and reading clubs. Sometimes the town libraries purchase some of the books and photographs, and the sets come back with great gaps in their ranks, which must be filled before they can go on with their travels.

To some extent libraries are sent to study clubs, but usually in connection with the town libraries. The work is done by a committee appointed by the executive committee of the associ-

ation, with funds obtained from private contributions and an annual appropriation of the association. Of 35 traveling libraries consisting of about 25 volumes each, 6 are special libraries on Venice, Florence, Rome, Shakspeare, English architecture and Italian art.

No bookcases are used as the books are nearly always sent to town libraries. With each traveling library are sent printed annotated finding lists and blanks for the required account of circulation. Transportation one way is paid by the association. No fixed time limit is made but the libraries are kept in each place about a year. In 1900 the circulation was 4001, twice that of two years ago. The number of books circulated was 974, the average number of issues of each book being 4. Of the 35 towns receiving them only 10 have a population of more than 1000. Each year members of the committee visit the towns most in need of aid, to get a practical knowledge of the conditions and to give personal help. Of one borrower who had charge of 4 libraries the annual report for the year ending in Jan. 1901 says:

There are few who will fail to learn something from her faithful persistency. The man who brings her a load of coal is persuaded to read American history and the boy who comes with a wheelbarrow to do an errand is treated to a sight of Venice photographs, and what is more, shows an intelligent and eager interest in them.

North Adams public library. The librarian writes:

Our first library was sent to a distant school at the request of the teacher, who takes about 25 books at a time and will keep them till they have been read. The teacher is responsible for them. At first only children's books were taken but lately books for older readers have been used. Much personal work in interesting the people has been done.

This week we send to Beavers mills our second library. A young man has promised to look after it two evenings a week and Saturday afternoons. As he will keep it in a room at his house, it will really be a home library for adults, though some children's books will be included. We shall send 50 books, some in French, as the population is a mixed one. Some placards advertising the library, will be distributed through the mill and some of our bookmarks will go with the box. The books will be packed in a neat box furnished with shelves, which will also serve as a bookcase.

RHODE ISLAND

Audubon society of Rhode Island. One traveling library consisting of 30 books on birds, the periodical *Bird lore* and an opera glass is lent to any branch of the society in the state. The directors of the society send the library in its pine bookcase to the secretary of the branch and books are lent to members only, according to the following rules:

1 No book shall be kept over two weeks at one time.

2 Not over two books shall be taken at one time by one person.

3 The opera glass and the book *How to name the birds* should not be lent for more than two days at a time.

In 1900 the library was sent to branches at Kingston, Wickford, East Greenwich, Peacedale, Woonsocket and Bristol Ferry. Transportation is paid by the society.

CONNECTICUT

Public library committee. In Connecticut there is as yet no state aid for traveling libraries but there was before the last legislature a bill for an annual appropriation of \$2000 for traveling libraries to be sent to towns having no public libraries. The Connecticut public library committee has 63 traveling libraries which have been given by the Connecticut society of colonial dames of America, by Charles H. Leeds, by the Audubon society of Connecticut and by women's clubs. The libraries given by the Audubon society contain books on animals and plants for circulation among the schools. Those given by the Connecticut society of colonial dames are chiefly books on American history and are also for schools. The committee circulates, in addition, 30 portfolios of pictures and 40 science cabinets.

NEW YORK

For description of the state system see p. 50

New York public library. The circulating department lends books to any school, club or institution in New York city which files an agreement to be responsible for the proper care of books and to make a monthly report of circulation. No permanent groups of books are made up, but libraries are selected to meet

the requirements of borrowers. Duplicate copies of supplementary reading books in biography, nature study, city history, general history, and Greek and Roman history are lent to industrial schools. In 1900, 138,949 volumes were circulated in 536 traveling libraries. The borrowers include public, high, industrial, vacation and truant schools, clubs, telegraph offices, fire departments, hospitals, libraries, play centers, public playgrounds, Sundayschools, children's aid societies and home library centers. Libraries may be kept as long as the monthly report shows a circulation which warrants their retention. No fee is required and transportation is usually paid by the library. No bookcases are used except for the home libraries. A member of the staff describes the work as follows:

In supplying books to public schools, best results come when a member of the traveling library staff visits the class once a month for reports and when students acting as librarians meet us for a talk on their duties, charging methods, care of the books, etc. Work in industrial schools is helped by this system of visiting and also, in marked degree, that of the public school free reading rooms. Sundayschools are supplied with books in numbers varying from 50 to 200, left for the season or exchanged oftener if wished. The experiment was tried of sending each week books selected by pupils, but this involved too much work. Several outlying churches are supplied from this department and are reaching the dimensions and equipment of branches. With few exceptions the different quarters of the fire department have availed themselves of the use of the library, a messenger going each month for report and directions as to books called for. In one case a home library has been furnished at the request of a fireman for the use of his family.

(For description of home libraries, *see* p. 134)

New York, Aguilar free library society. The library lends books to public schools, free lectures and similar institutions. The annual report of the society for 1898 says:

In September a circular was sent out to many principals of public schools, suggesting that they make application to the board of education if they wish to have books sent to their schools. In response we have received a number of applications. The majority of the books sent are duplicates and have to be bought and prepared for circulation before being sent out. From the 110th st. branch books have been lent to illustrate lectures on History of civilization, American history and How we are governed.

New York, Cathedral free circulating library. Traveling libraries containing books bearing on school work are lent from this library to public and parochial schools for home reading. Borrowers may select libraries from the Cathedral library catalogue and graded lists. Books are sent in boxes and no fees are required.

New York, First-day school association of the N. Y. yearly meeting of friends. The work of sending traveling libraries to schools constituting the association is in charge of a committee of 5 appointed annually and receiving its funds from an annual appropriation of the association. All questions of guaranty and restriction of circulation are left to the local school superintendents. Transportation is paid by the borrowing school. 13 libraries containing 50 books each were lent in 1900. The books are sent in their cases which are of pine or white wood either painted or stained and fitted with two locks.

Brooklyn public library. Since 1899 the traveling library department has sent libraries to any organization or institution in the borough of Brooklyn on the guaranty of one responsible person. The department has 100 libraries containing about 5500 volumes, the number in each library varying from 50 to 100 volumes. The demand from clubs and schools for libraries for study of special subjects increases constantly and few miscellaneous libraries are now lent. The subject libraries are on folk lore, drama, history, Holland, Spain, Egypt, Russia, Norway and Sweden, France, Greek art, American literature, English literature, nature, household economics, church history and juvenile and adult fiction. Bound volumes of music of the best composers have recently been added, including scores for the piano, organ or violin, violin and piano and the voice. Borrowers may select their own titles and books may be kept as long as they show sufficient circulation to warrant it. The Browne charging system is supplied by the traveling library department. Libraries are sent in the bookcases, which are of stained whitewood, 21x18x12 in., and have one shelf and a door at front and back. Typewritten and printed catalogues are sent with the books. In 1900, 109 libraries were sent to 100 places in Brooklyn, with a total circulation of 41,760.

Buffalo public library. This institution not only maintains branches and stations and lends books to schools, but also sends traveling libraries to fire and police stations and to various organizations throughout the city. The report of the library for 1900 says:

We have sent out during the year 108 traveling libraries containing 3131 volumes. The circulation, which by no means gives a just idea of their use as in many cases books do not circulate outside the place where they are sent, numbered 9025. These libraries were sent to high and grammar school classes, private and parochial schools, church clubs, missions and settlements, literary clubs, Sundayschools, factories, men's clubs, home libraries, fire houses and police stations. The most successful part of this work continues to be that done in the fire and police departments. The books placed in the fire houses have, in some cases, become neighborhood libraries under care and responsibility of the captains.

PENNSYLVANIA

Free library commission. The development of a system of traveling libraries has been an important part of the work of the commission established by law in 1899. In 1901, an appropriation of \$3500 was made by the legislature. On satisfactory guaranty that rules will be observed, libraries are lent to communities without a public library on application of 25 resident taxpayers. A responsible owner of real estate acts as trustee and appoints a librarian. A fee of \$1 for each 25 volumes is paid for cases, printed catalogues, blanks and express. A library may not be kept longer than 6 months except by permission, when an additional fee of \$1 for each two months is paid. There are now 30 libraries each containing 50 books, one half of which are for juvenile readers.

Free library of Philadelphia. In 1899, the library, in addition to its regular branches, provided 104 localities in the city with books from its traveling library department. These localities include 46 fire stations, 6 police stations, 28 telegraph stations, factories and headquarters of wheelmen's clubs, extension centers and study clubs. Of the 189 libraries now available, 7 are special collections on Shakspeare, Greek and Roman literature and history, political economy, great leaders and reformers, American history, medieval history and Victorian poets. Libraries are lent

on guaranty of the person acting as trustee and may be kept 3 months. In general the charging system of the free library is used, but at fire, police and telegraph stations readers are merely asked to write their names on the book pockets. In 1900, the 4729 volumes available were in circulation in 189 libraries, 461 loans of libraries having been made.

NEW JERSEY

State library. Owing largely to the work of the state federation of women's clubs, the New Jersey legislature in 1898 directed the commissioners of the state library to establish a traveling library system and in 1899 and 1900 appropriated \$1500 for their support. The state library commissioners constitute the controlling board and the libraries are sent out from the state library. 20 resident taxpayers of any town without a public library may, on signing the agreement and appointing a responsible trustee and librarian, borrow one of the 62 traveling libraries for 6 months. The library must be accessible to all residents of the community and must be kept open not less than one hour on each of 2 days of each week. An annual fee of \$5 covers all expense, except local cartage, of any number of libraries borrowed within a year. Each library contains 50 books, of which not more than half may be fiction and of which at least half are adapted to young people. Books are shipped in oak bookcases and with them are sent printed catalogues, rules for circulation, charging tray, cards and instructions to the trustee and librarian. In the selection of the first traveling libraries the commissioners were aided by the state federation of women's clubs, which also contributed a number of libraries. In 1900, 42 libraries were sent out, an increase of 18 over the number sent in 1899. The state librarian writes:

There is no doubt that, if the experiment is to be successful in New Jersey, a traveling librarian or secretary must be employed to visit the towns and give his entire attention to the work. The state does not present the field for such a work that is found in many other states. The territory is small and the distance to New York, Philadelphia, Newark, Jersey City and other cities so short that there is no difficulty in getting the daily papers within an hour of their publication. New Jersey has for many years been aiding in establishing teachers libraries and libraries in public schools, with the result that several schools have secured

libraries of more than 1000 volumes. The situation is that the legislature is willing to supply all the traveling libraries that are needed but there is no sentiment in favor of attempting to create a demand for them.

Newark free public library. Since 1897 part of the book fund has been devoted to traveling libraries for schools and engine houses. The libraries lent to schools are graded and contain 50 volumes. The firemen's libraries are general collections of 20 volumes, of which 10 are fiction. Principals of schools and captains of engine companies are responsible for the safe return of the books and records of circulation. The 30 libraries now available are sent in pine cases and are accompanied by type-written lists of contents.

DELAWARE

State library commission. At the 1901 session of the general assembly of Delaware an act was passed creating a library commission and providing for the establishing and maintaining of free public libraries. The commission will also control the system of traveling libraries begun in 1899, when an annual appropriation of \$100 was made to the library committee of the state federation of women's clubs, for traveling libraries for schools.

State federation of women's clubs. The system established by the federation and put in the hands of the recently appointed state library commission is described as follows by George F. Bowerman, librarian of the Wilmington institute free library and a member of the commission.

In 1899 the general assembly provided for an annual appropriation of \$100 to go to the federation to aid their traveling library work. With the money so far available from the state, 375 volumes have been bought, the entire money going for books as other expenses are provided for by gifts. The cases are made by boys of Ferris industrial school. Within 3 years 7 traveling libraries of 50 volumes each have been sent to 21 communities by means of the \$100 yearly appropriation.

Besides these state libraries 22 other traveling libraries have been in circulation through the agency of women's clubs: 11 are owned and sent out by the Wilmington New century club, 5 by the Milford Century club and 6 by the Dover Century club. These combined libraries (state and club) aggregate about 1500 volumes. The only free public libraries in the state are at Wilmington, Odessa, and St Jones. 8 other towns have subscription libraries: Smyrna, Dover, Milford, Newark, Lewes,

Bridgeville, Georgetown and Milton. This excellent work done by the women's clubs will pave the way for the larger work which it is hoped will be accomplished by the new state library commission.

Wilmington, New century club. The club has 11 general traveling libraries of 50 volumes each lent for 6 months to small towns. All expenses are paid by the club from a sum voted from its treasury and from gifts. Bookcases are packed in boxes for shipment. Lists of contents are fastened on the doors of the bookcases. In 1900 libraries were lent to 26 small places having few or no library privileges.

MARYLAND

Maryland state traveling libraries. These were established for Baltimore county in 1898 by Lawrence Turnbull of Baltimore who selects the libraries in cooperation with Bernard C. Steiner, librarian of the Enoch Pratt free library, and appoints a committee of 5 to control them. Any group of Baltimore county citizens may borrow on the guaranty of three of their number. The libraries may be kept 6 months on payment of the fee of \$1, which covers transportation. The 11 libraries, all general in character, contain an average of 35 volumes and are shipped in the bookcases. The managers of the system report that the libraries are not in great demand, second libraries being seldom applied for.

Queen Anne county traveling libraries. From the headquarters at Centerville, 5 libraries are circulated among residents of the county. The libraries are equipped and controlled by De Courcy W. Thom with the cooperation of Bernard C. Steiner of the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore. Each library of 36 books is sent in a poplar box having 3 compartments. A catalogue is fastened on the inside of the door. In 1900, 4 libraries were sent to small towns in the county.

State federation of women's clubs. The federation is beginning traveling library work and hopes to secure an appropriation from the next legislature. 2 traveling libraries have recently been equipped by the Hytheham club of Port Deposit and one by the Friday club of Baltimore.

First-day school committee of the Baltimore yearly meeting of friends. 8 traveling libraries of 45 volumes each are lent to members of the society of friends. The libraries are selected

by the committee and each may contain 75% fiction. The books are shipped in pine bookcases. No fee is charged but borrowers pay transportation. One entire library, having been infected with scarlet fever, was burned. In 1900 the 8 libraries were sent to 17 places, all of less than 1000 inhabitants.

VIRGINIA

Hampton normal and agricultural institute. In December 1896 Hampton institute began to send traveling libraries to country schools taught by Hampton graduates. Miss L. E. Herron, librarian of the institute library, says of the work:

For two seasons our work was practically stopped by prevalence of smallpox in Virginia. Since then we have fumigated all our libraries on their return to us, leaving them a few days in a small basement room in which formalin is burned. Our plan has been to send libraries at the beginning of the school year (about October 1) to country schools taught by our graduates. We send 3 or 4 into a county. After 2 months they are moved along; after 2 months more they are moved again and when the schools close at the end of 6 months, the libraries are sent back to us and started in another county the next year. The plan has worked fairly well. 2 months seem about the right period, and children and teachers both enjoy the books. Our chief difficulty, though it is not a serious one, is in the inaccessibility of the country districts and in transportation. We hope to send out next year with some of our libraries, sets of pictures illustrating them. These will be simply mounted on cardboard, and so arranged that they can easily be hung up about the schoolroom. We wish very much to have some one go occasionally to visit the schools and talk to teachers and children about the books. The results have been much better wherever we have been able to do this. Our last 2 libraries were presented to us; one by the graduating class of 1900, which gave up its class supper for the purpose, and the other by a young colored man, a former student of the school, who is now a firstclass machinist in the U. S. navy.

18 libraries of 25 volumes each are now available. The oak bookcases, made by students in the carpentry department of the institute, are packed in boxes for shipping. Two of the letters received by the librarian of Hampton institute from children in schools where traveling libraries have been stationed are here reprinted.

I read three of your books and I found them to be very interesting and also very amusing. The names of the books were *Flossy & Bossy*, *Wide awake* and *Jo's opportunity*. I thank you very much for the library which you presented to the school. Your books are very amusing indeed that little book called *Flossy & Bossy* was the prettiest & most amusing book I have ever read.

The book that I read was entitle "*The Coral Reef*". I like the reading of the book. And it teaches a very usefull Lesson to the youth. And it show, what all ways Becomes of disobedience children. I will take the reading as a Lesson for myself.

Trying allways to do as I am told.

NORTH CAROLINA

The state legislature at its recent session added an important measure to North Carolina library legislation in passing an act to encourage establishment of libraries in rural public schools. It amends the public library law of 1897, which authorized establishment of public libraries in towns of more than 1000 population, by making its terms apply to towns of less than 1000; and it provides that "whenever the patrons and friends of any free public school shall raise \$10 towards a library and tender it to the county superintendent of schools, the county board of education shall add \$10 from the funds of the district and shall appoint an intelligent person to manage and select the library." An additional sum of \$10 shall be appropriated from the state board of education, and the \$30 thus received shall be devoted to buying books. Libraries shall be exchanged among adjacent schools, no exchange to be made in less than 6 months, and the cost to be at private expense. An appropriation of \$5000 is made for public schools to carry these provisions into execution. Not more than 6 schools in each county shall establish such libraries and no school district in an incorporated town shall receive any money under its provisions; county boards are empowered to select the 6 schools. In Durham county the act was immediately taken advantage of, and each of the 6 schools applying for the library grant will receive in addition \$10 offered for the purpose by Gen. J. S. Carr, of Durham. *Library journal*, May 1901

L. D. Andrews of Monroe writes:

Our state in its last legislature made an effort for the establishment of district school libraries which may be changed not oftener than once in 6 months. The number of libraries is limited to 6 in each county, making nearly 600 in the state. The state school fund pays \$5000, the county school fund \$5000 and individuals have contributed \$5000. This is an experiment. Our people want confidence. If this beginning proves auspicious our state will advance on this line. Our libraries are intended to be wholly rural and no incorporated town or village is to have the benefit of them.

Asheville library association. The association began in 1900 to lend traveling libraries given by R. P. Hayes. Any citizen of Buncombe county may, by paying transportation, borrow a library for 3 months. There are now 11 libraries of 25 volumes each, chiefly fiction.

Goldsboro woman's club. The club has 7 traveling libraries of about 50 volumes each, which are sent to country communities. The system is modeled on that of the Kentucky federation of women's clubs.

GEORGIA

State federation of women's clubs. Though Georgia has a library commission, there is no state appropriation for traveling libraries. The club women of the state have undertaken to supply this need, and in addition to traveling libraries controlled by the federation many individual clubs have one or more libraries which they lend to neighboring districts. The plan is thus described by Mrs J. K. Ottley of Atlanta:

Our work is divided into study-class libraries and neighborhood libraries. We have as the property of the state federation a number of parallel reading collections of books, which are meant to accompany and illustrate a number of syllabuses on various subjects which we offer to clubs in smaller towns. Season by season these books and courses pass round. Cartersville may study the industrial conditions of women and children this year and next year the course and library will pass on to Covington. This is what we do for the clubs. The other part of the work is what the clubs do for others in library work. Each club secures by every means possible, all the books and magazines it can and distributes them by hand, as loan libraries in remote districts through its own county. This saves carriage and gives the women of each club a personal interest which they could not feel if all

the work emanated from one central head. Let me cite my own county. Fulton county has 56 rural schools. The Atlanta woman's club is gradually establishing in each of the communities to which these schools belong neighborhood library associations, generally of men and women, who are trying to procure a good library for their neighborhood. These libraries are placed at the schoolhouses and help to make the schools centers of culture. To each of these associations the woman's club lends a small library as an inducement to make farther additions. In this work we have hearty support of county and state superintendents and teachers.

The report of the library committee of the federation, printed in *Southern woman*, May 10, 1901, describes the work as follows:

In the traveling libraries which are sent out by some of the organizations in the state there are several thousand volumes which are arranged in sections and sent to the county schools and the rural districts. In many instances pictures are mounted and sent with the books and some of our library committees are supplying the county schools with pictures, plaster casts, etc., thus developing a taste for the beautiful. Some of our committees have arranged receptions for the teachers of the county schools, and by attending the normal classes and taking with them books, magazines, etc., for the teachers they have shown a sincere interest in the educational development of our section.

The federation library which was established by Mrs J. Lindsay Johnson contains courses of study on civics, sociology, art, music, domestic science, decorative art, French history and literature, American literature, Shakspeare, Browning, travel, child culture, and village improvement. There are 100 volumes in this library. Any club in the federation can secure a course of study by agreeing to pay the expenses of transportation.

Atlanta woman's club. The president of the club gives the following account of the traveling library work:

During the last 4 years we have made successful efforts to furnish to our county schools both literature and pictures, and during the last year our plan has been greatly aided by a gift from the Southern railroad of 12 brass bound cases. In order to induce our children to make personal efforts for securing permanent libraries, our county commissioner has promised that when \$15 shall have been contributed to each school, \$10 in addition will be given from a sum generously given by our county tax collector. The school thus equipped with a permanent collection of books may then have one of our Atlanta woman's club traveling cases of books for one year, when fresh cases will be supplied.

This plan lately undertaken, is marked by much enthusiasm and we believe that the necessary effort will increase the appreciation felt for the literature furnished by our clubs. We have 25 schools in this county. 5 have already filled the requirements and we hope to be able to supply the demand as it is made. In each case we send 35 books.

County libraries. In 30 counties in Georgia traveling libraries of 60 volumes each, given by Hoke Smith of Atlanta, circulate among the rural schools. The plan is explained by the following circular letter sent by Mr Smith to each county superintendent of schools:

While in Jones county a few weeks ago the idea was suggested to me that a well selected, small library, prepared for the patrons and children of our rural schools, could be used to great advantage in the following way. The superintendent of schools of the county will take charge of the library and place it under control of a teacher in a school for one or two months, the books circulating under the rules prescribed by the superintendent. After the library has remained a specified time in a particular school, it is then moved to another school, and then to another school, till gradually it travels over the entire county. I desire to see what good can be accomplished in this way and to try the experiment in several counties, hoping that it may lead to establishing libraries within reach of all children reared in rural districts. I have selected your county as one of the counties to which I wish to give one of the libraries, and I write to ask if you will take charge of the one in your county and handle it according to the plan above marked out. The books will be placed in a case with a lock and key, the case constituting the shelves for the books. This case will prepare the books to be moved from place to place, and at the same time furnish a suitable means for keeping them while they are stationary.

ALABAMA

State federation of women's clubs. The first traveling libraries in Alabama were sent out by individual clubs in the state federation with no unity of plan. In order to systemize the work, the federation in 1899 appointed a traveling library committee which reported within 2 months that 350 books, 300 magazines and 10 bookcases had been bought or given and that 6 libraries had been sent out. Since then 15 libraries have been in circulation. Of the 400 volumes available in December 1899, 300 had been circulated. Libraries are lent for 3 months to any community having no public library, on application of 10 citizens who appoint a trustee and librarian. A fee of \$2.50 for the first 25 volumes and

\$1.50 for each additional 25 volumes is paid in advance. Books are packed in cases, each of which has two shelves, a compartment for 25 magazines and one for readers cards. Transportation is paid by the federation, but since the high rates make it difficult to supply rural districts the federation plans to ask the Alabama railroad commissioners for free transportation.

LOUISIANA

Louisiana traveling library association. This association, connected with the Howard memorial library at New Orleans, began in 1897 to send traveling libraries to any community in the state on request of 3 persons of good standing. Funds are obtained from gifts. Of 10 libraries now available one is 50 volumes of biography, while the other 9 represent all main classes of the *Decimal classification*. The libraries are sent at the borrowers' expense and may be kept 6 months; mimeographed author lists are sent with the books. The ledger system is used in charging and is supplied by the association.

TEXAS

State federation of women's clubs. During the last year a special effort to further the state's library interests has been made by the federation. Besides aiding in organizing public libraries, many clubs have established small systems of traveling libraries. The following accounts are taken from the report of the library committee of the federation for the two years ending May 1901.

The Abilene library association has prepared 2 traveling libraries, each containing 50 well selected books which are now being sent from point to point. The merchants of the town contribute cabinets in consideration of having the firm's name and business printed on them. These after going the rounds, are returned and refilled as needed.

The Pierian club of Dallas has devoted its library of about 500 books to traveling libraries for Dallas county.

The Standard reading club of Greenville has a number of books for 2 traveling libraries for outlying districts.

The Ladies reading club of Houston has established 2 traveling libraries for Harris county.

2 traveling libraries of 30 volumes each have been sent to country schools, and 41 volumes given to the Texas and Pacific hospital library by the Marshall library association. This is the result of the untiring efforts of club women, for, aside from the building fund, the cash gifts have never reached \$100.

Mrs Rotan generously gave the Woman's club of Waco the traveling libraries, 16 cases, and 400 books, which have been so much pleasure to the people of McLennan county. They move once in 3 months. New books are constantly added to the collection.

The board of the public library of Tyler plans to send to country districts traveling libraries made up of duplicates from the library, government publications and periodicals.

The San Antonio woman's club publishes the following report of its traveling libraries. The first library, reported at the federation meeting, 1899, was sent to Stockdale, where we formed a club to receive it. At a second meeting the club reported 3 circulating libraries sent to Stockdale, Sutherland Springs, Lavernia and Manchaca. For the first 2 years clubs were formed in some small town or village by the Chair of club extension working with our library committee. After organization was perfected, a library was sent on condition that the club take charge, furnish a librarian and encourage free circulation of books. Each case of books is returned and inspected by the library committee of our club before passing to another point. This year our library committee and our Chair of club extension have been working independently though in harmony with each other, as we find that an organization established as a club is more permanent than one called into being merely to receive a library. We send our libraries not only to clubs which we form ourselves but to other small struggling clubs and the books have been enthusiastically received. One small club showed such appreciation of our efforts as to send to the library committee a gift of both money and books, though the committee neither demanded nor expected such compensation.

We have but 300 books. Most of these were given by club members, the remainder bought with money from the club treasury. The total expense of our library work has not exceeded \$75. It should be encouraging to other clubs to know how many people can be reached and benefited by concerted effort and small outlay.

The appendix of the report of the federation library committee contains suggestions for establishing traveling library systems, an outline of study on U. S. history, and lists of books on U. S. history and Texas history. Clubs are urged to contribute these books to the federation for use of all constituent clubs.

TENNESSEE

State federation of women's clubs. 26 general traveling libraries of 50 to 80 books each have been given by individual clubs

throughout the state and are controlled by the executive board of the federation. Libraries are lent to clubs and communities without libraries. Each is sent in an oak case with 2 shelves. The Southern railroad carries the libraries without charge. In 1900 the libraries were sent to 30 small towns.

KENTUCKY

State federation of women's clubs. This has general supervision of the 60 traveling libraries equipped by clubs for circulation among the mountain districts of the state. The work is described as follows in the report of the traveling library committee, May 1900:

In 19 of the 31 mountain counties of Kentucky, traveling libraries have a foothold. These libraries are located in mountain schools, churches, stores, postoffices, and private residences, which indicate the character of the people actively co-operating in this work. In the future, Breathitt, Manchester, Harlan, London, and Eversole must be associated with other and higher interests than "feuds and factions."

The library has lost by fire no. 7, and by flood in Beattyville no. 6 and 8, leaving 50 cases in good condition.

The plan proposed is to have a circuit in each county, with the county seat a distributing point. The work is twofold, that of the state committee and that of the individual clubs. Filling a box with carefully selected books for youthful readers, labeling, cataloguing the same and shipping according to the schedule, is but a beginning. Each club should send its boxes freight prepaid, should correspond with the librarians receiving the same, should keep in close touch with the intellectual needs of the community to be benefited, and should send a condensed statement to the chairman for her annual report. The other part of this work is that of the state committee which contracts for its material and printing, and maintains an extensive correspondence in search of librarians able and willing to cooperate as indicated and with railroad officials concerning free transportation, routes and connections with the mountain roads and push boats on the river.

The following extracts from letters from local librarians show the characteristics of the mountain communities to which the libraries are sent:

There are no doubt many young people, verging on manhood and womanhood, who have never seen a copy of *Mother Goose*. All they know of her is the little jingles that have accidentally reached them. In writing to me, you need not inclose a stamp for reply. Take it for granted that I will write you five letters

during the year. This would be 10 cents furnished me. With that 10 cents buy a linen picture book or primer to entertain the baby, while the poor tired mother gets a chance to rest, maybe to read. (The picture book was sent by the Shelbyville public library committee.)

The last library is in the care of John Carr, who keeps the only hardware store in the mountains, hence a desirable point, as both the Kentucky and Tennessee mountaineers come to his store for nails, glass, etc., for a distance of 30 miles. He takes much pride in the books. I examined them the other day, all in perfect order, all in, or in responsible hands who are reading. He added 30 or more volumes of his own, mostly in paper covers.

I can see the practical workings of your society in all four of my charges along the L. & E. R. R. But it is specially noticeable at St Helene, in Lee county, near the three forks of the Kentucky river, where the young people are very much restricted in their sources of amusement and literary improvement. There some of the children have read and reread many of the books. Here in our little town of Clay City, which is considered the gateway to the mountains, many of the people have libraries of their own, but a large proportion of the young people have not.

OHIO

State library, Traveling library department. Largely through the efforts of the Ohio library association the legislature in 1896 placed the state library under control of a library commission appointed by the governor. This commission made the library accessible to all citizens of the state by sending traveling libraries to those at a distance from Columbus. The first to use the libraries were the women's clubs. The report for 1898 of the library extension committee of the state federation of women's clubs says:

The benefits derived from these books were so many and so far reaching that a strong desire was expressed that the next legislature be asked to make a special appropriation for traveling libraries. Those sent out were mainly made up of books already in the state library, which could not fill the increasing demand, and many of these were too old to make them useful to clubs and others desiring recent developments on all subjects.

Through the efforts of the federation and the state library association \$4000 was appropriated for traveling libraries by the legislature in 1898 and an appropriation has since been made annually. The libraries are not in fixed groups but are made up on special

subjects to meet requirements of applicants. The federation of women's clubs sends to constituent clubs a circular containing the following suggestions:

The committee urges that clubs send in to the state librarian at the earliest possible date each spring, copies of their club calendars for the next year's work, with a statement of what will be needed in traveling libraries, made as definite as possible. Often the state librarian must wait for new books to arrive or for traveling libraries not yet returned. Time is also needed to make necessary purchases of new books wanted. The state appropriation is so limited and the demand for traveling libraries is increasing so rapidly that the state librarian can not buy new books for club work in advance of applications. Be specially particular to state the subjects on which material is most needed in your club. It will greatly facilitate your getting it. It often happens that calendars cover so wide a field that it is impossible to send material on all the subjects, in one traveling library. Access should first be given to material in the homes and the home libraries. Then apply to the state library to make up what is lacking. Cooperation with the state librarian and the state library commission is of great value and will make possible much larger results. The state librarian knows in the spring just what books will be needed for use in the schools. If he could know also thus early what would be needed in the clubs for the next year, it would greatly aid in widening the field of, and in making more effective, the traveling library among the women's clubs of the state.

In addition to books, clubs receive carefully prepared lists of magazine articles covering the subjects of study.

Though the club women were at first the largest users of the libraries, schools and granges now form a large proportion of the borrowers. Public libraries, clubs, associations of citizens, granges and boards of education may, on signing an agreement and paying transportation, borrow libraries for 3 months with the privilege of renewal for 3 months. The state librarian has the right, however, to recall a book at any time after 1 month from the date of issue. No fee is charged for libraries, and no charge may be made at the traveling library station for the use of books. No bookcases are used. In 1900, 711 libraries were sent out, of which 252 were lent to schools, 179 to independent study clubs, 125 to women's clubs, 95 to granges, 50 to religious organizations and 10 to libraries. 461 libraries went to places of less than 1000 inhabitants.

Cincinnati public library. Traveling libraries are sent to firemen's stations and to rural school districts in the county. Of the 48 libraries now in circulation, 36 are firemen's libraries, each of the 6 circuits having 6 libraries. The rural libraries are arranged in 3 circuits of 4 libraries each. At each intermediate and high school in the rural circuits, 25 reference books are placed. On guaranty of any resident of the county a library is lent for 3 months with no fees and no restrictions except the time limit. With each library is sent a supply of printed classified catalogues. Cases are of oak and have double doors and enameled iron handles.

Van Wert, Brumback free library. For some time several of the large city libraries have lent books to all residents in their counties, but a later development is the county library supported by a tax levied on the county and open to all its citizens. An example of this is thus described by Ernest I. Antrim in an article in the *Forum* of May 1901.

The method adopted by the Brumback library to bring its books to all parts of Van Wert county is easily explained. The library itself, which represents a value of \$50,000, receives an annual income of fully \$6500, and has a stack-room capacity, when all available room shall be used, of 100,000 volumes. It is located in the city of Van Wert, the county seat of Van Wert county, fortunately in the center of the county, which contains in round numbers 275,000 acres and has a population of nearly 35,000. Besides the central library there are 10 branch libraries, which are so situated that every resident of the county is within easy access of the library itself or one of its branches. The 10 branches have a unique feature in the form of what may be called a traveling library system, and are also in direct communication with the central library. The 10 branch libraries are placed in the more important stores or offices of the villages of the county, where they are excellently managed, by virtue of the fact that those having charge of them are given nominal salaries.

To start the traveling library system, the library trustees bought 1000 books, most of them entirely new, 100 of which were sent to each of the 10 branch libraries. After keeping its 100 books 2 months, each branch sends them to one of the other 9 branches, and receives a second 100 from one of its neighbors to take their place. So the books pass from branch to branch until each has had the 1000 books, when they are returned to the central library and catalogued. In the meantime, another thou-

sand has been bought and made ready to repeat the experience of the first 1000.

The branch libraries are in direct communication with the central library. All persons securing books from the central library through any branch are subject to no other rules than those imposed by the central library. Cards can be had from the central library only, but persons holding cards may secure books anywhere in the county. The more important papers of the county have published lists of all the books contained in the library, and continue to publish the titles of new books as soon as they have been catalogued.

Franklin county. Traveling libraries for schools are sent out from Columbus, the county seat, by the county board of school examiners. The 54 libraries contain about 40 volumes each and have printed catalogues. Bookcases with two shelves and a side compartment are used in shipping. The superintendent of the system writes:

The only difficulty we have is in trying to satisfy the demand for more books and cases all over the county. The children themselves have been made to realize that the library is theirs and we have "Library day" February 22 when all the schools give entertainments for the benefit of the fund. There are from 3 to 4 stations in each township and a case remains at a station about 6 weeks. All the cases move on the same day but we leave the location to a sub-superintendent in each township in order that the cases may be most advantageously placed.

INDIANA

State library. In response to a demand from the women's clubs and from other sources, Indiana in 1899 appointed a public library commission of 3 members, and appropriated \$3000 for the equipment of traveling libraries and \$500 annually for expenses. The state librarian is ex-officio secretary of the commission and the work is done at the state library. Any 5 or more persons may form an associate library and obtain traveling libraries by giving bonds and filing applications. Local libraries, clubs, granges and similar organizations may borrow on giving satisfactory guaranty and complying with the rules. Transportation is paid by the borrowers but no fee is required. Of the 80 libraries now available, 60 are general libraries of about 40 volumes, while 20 are study libraries of about 14 volumes each on

fine arts, music, English, French, American and Indiana history, and German, Italian, Scandinavian, Slavonic, French, general and minor European literature. Libraries may be kept 3 months and this time may by permission be extended if there is no other applicant for the library. No bookcases are sent but each shipping case has a shelf and may be used as a bookcase if necessary.

ILLINOIS

During the last year the state library association, state teacher's association, Illinois farmers institute and Illinois federation of women's clubs cooperated in an effort to secure a library commission law but were unsuccessful. The proposed bill provided for an annual appropriation of \$5000 and a commission of 5 members whose duties should be to establish a system of traveling libraries and to give advice to public libraries. In hope of ultimately securing a state system, the Illinois federation of women's clubs, Illinois farmers institute and other organizations are sending traveling libraries to rural districts throughout the state.

Illinois farmers institute and Illinois association of domestic science. Traveling libraries are sent out from the central office at Springfield to county farmers institutes in the state. For this work the last legislature appropriated \$2500 annually for 2 years. Each of the 41 libraries contains about 50 volumes which include general reading and 5 books on domestic science besides works on farming, live stock and dairying. The domestic science association has in addition one library of 25 volumes on domestic science for the use of clubs. A library is lent to a community on application of the president and secretary of the county institute and 5 other taxpayers, who agree to observe rules, pay transportation, appoint a responsible person as librarian, and return the library in good condition. Books are sent in boxes which serve as bookcases also. The secretary of the Illinois farmers institute describes the work as follows in *Public Libraries*, April 1901.

A year ago we reported that 21 institute free libraries had been equipped and were in use. The institute expended on these libraries \$547.52. At the board meeting in June 1900, \$500 more was set aside for libraries, and from this amount 20 were equipped at a cost of \$488, making a total of 41 now in use. Of these, 3 are now on their third trip out, 18 on the second trip and soon to

be returned, and 20 on their first trip. The places where these libraries are located are scattered over the state. Reports from the 18 libraries first sent out were not so complete as they should have been, from the fact that the patronage of the libraries was greater than anticipated, and the supply of receipts and stubs for reporting was not large enough to meet the needs. From reports received it appears that the libraries were in use on the average $4\frac{1}{2}$ months each; that a total of 1557 loans of books was made in that time. There was in these 18 libraries a total of 687 volumes, independent of books of reference and bulletins in each set.

The libraries are in charge of the secretary of the Illinois farmers institute, and handled from the office of the state house at Springfield. The close relation of the state institute with the officers of the several county institutes, who are familiar with the conditions and needs of the people of their respective counties, makes it possible to place libraries to the very best advantage. Every institute library will contain some books on technical agriculture and domestic science, but these will be only a small part of the number of books in each set. A book on the diseases of horses or cattle is a desirable treatise for the farmer to have, and is a necessity for the successful conduct of his business; yet we do not expect that the farmer will confine his reading to books that pertain entirely to business, neither do we expect that he will gather his family around the evening lamp to read to them of the interesting features of ringbone and spavin, nor of the dangers of tuberculosis. Not at all; the farmer wants books for inspiration and rest as well as for business, and it is the intention to have in every library books to supply these latter wants. An hour, or even a few minutes, spent each day with a good book will often change the whole tone of the home atmosphere for the day. A northwest blizzard or southeast snowstorm can even be enjoyed, if taken in connection with the reading of Emerson's poem on the snow, or Whittier's *Snow-bound*. A rainy spell in seeding or harvest time will not even cloud the home atmosphere if James Whitecomb Riley's *Thoughts for the discouraged farmer* be at hand to read.

State federation of women's clubs. Under the general supervision of the federation committee on library extension, individual clubs send out traveling libraries to the rural districts. There are now 92 libraries circulating in Cook, La Salle, Kane, Stevenson, Champaign, Macon, Boone, McHenry, Peoria, Knox, Lee, Bureau and McLean counties. When practicable they are placed in rural stores, postoffices and private houses. Details of ad-

ministration are left to the clubs. The federation committee, however, has published a suggestive circular of information for clubs equipping traveling libraries. Among other suggestions it contains the following:

County superintendents of schools, teachers and ministers can often suggest where libraries are needed and desired.

If possible locate your library in your own county. If you desire the library extension committee to locate it, send the chairman a copy of the catalogue and a statement as to general condition of the books and how they are cased.

Do not fail to notify the chairman of the library extension committee of the date of shipment and destination of your library.

A suitable bookcase should accompany every library.

Send 50 bound books if possible; if not, good books with paper covers may be covered by the senders with heavy paper and cloth corners and back.

Send one half juvenile books which will interest pupils in the grades and often parents as well.

In German and Scandinavian localities the older people prefer books in their own language.

Good magazines in complete sets are acceptable, specially the *Youth's companion* and similar illustrated periodicals.

A library bulletin containing a list of books, placed in the postoffice or in the weekly newspaper would be a great help in securing and keeping readers.

Correspondence with those who are to receive books may modify suggestions.

Encouraging reports are received from those in charge of the traveling libraries. One young man teaching in a rural school writes: "I have just organized a class of young people to study literature and when I tell you that there are not probably more than 200 books in the district, outside my own library, you will see how we shall value those you sent." In McHenry county two young men in charge of village schools have received 10 libraries from Chicago clubs and are circulating them in the hope of arousing interest and inducing the voters to secure the 2 mill tax for township libraries. Packages of books are sent as permanent gifts from clubs to rural towns where small libraries are being collected.

The federation has recently received as a gift from the publishers Rolfe's edition of Shakspeare in 40 volumes, Rolfe's

Shakspeare the boy, Sydney Lee's *Life of Shakespeare*, Abbott's *Shakespearean grammar* and the Globe edition. A case also has been give so that the entire library will be circulated in the fall among clubs in the federation with no cost except for transportation.

University of Illinois state library school. 3 traveling libraries have been given, one each by the school, a woman's club of Champaign and the College of literature and arts of the university. In *Library journal*, April 1899, the monthly letter from the school says:

The library school has made a careful selection of subjects and has bought new books in good editions. The work of the school interested the Champaign social science club to promise a second library for Champaign county. The school was asked to prepare lists for selection of the books and to care for and circulate the library. These libraries will be put in charge of the state library commission as soon as one exists.

The libraries are lent to residents of the state for 3 months on guaranty of a responsible citizen and payment of transportation. The oak bookcases containing the books and ledger for records are shipped in packing cases. Typewritten lists of contents are fastened on the inside of the door. In 1900 the libraries contained 143 volumes.

Rockford public library. A large number of graded traveling libraries in neat cases, have been placed in the schools for school and home reading. These libraries are changed 3 or 4 times a year, thereby giving the pupils a large number of books on a great variety of subjects. A classified catalogue of about 1000 volumes suitable for children's reading is being published. Recent reports from the teachers in rooms where these libraries have been placed show very gratifying results, both on the part of the pupil and of the older members of the family in the home. One boy said to his teacher that these libraries were better than a curfew law for him, for he had not been down-town an evening since the library was put into his room. *Public libraries*, February 1901

MICHIGAN

State library. Through the energetic efforts of the state librarian, Mrs Mary C. Spencer, the Michigan state legislature in 1895 appropriated \$2500 annually for traveling libraries and thus

became the second state to establish the system. In 1901 the annual appropriation was \$5000. A circular of information sent out from the state library, gives the following information.

The law of 1895 provided for establishing traveling libraries. Acting under this law, libraries of 50 volumes are made up, selected with the greatest care, and of the highest literary standard. Books are arranged under ethics, religion, social science, natural science, literature, fiction, description and travel, biography, history. Libraries are sent out in neat oak cases, accompanied by loan cards and other details necessary for the care of books, and with full instructions for management.

The libraries are primarily for use of residents of small villages and rural districts. They are for those deprived of library advantages enjoyed by large cities and literary centers, and are sent on application of 20 or 25 taxpayers, granges, farmers clubs, reading clubs, Epworth leagues and similar organizations and any society organized for the purpose of study.

The state library is the center of this work. Books may be kept from 3 to 6 months, when they may be returned and a new library will be sent. A yearly fee of \$5 pays all transportation expenses on 4 libraries if they are used during the year. 3 libraries are sent whether or not the year has expired. A fee of \$1.25 pays all expenses of one library, which may be kept for 3 months and the time may be extended. Books are selected to please all tastes and are suited to all ages except, perhaps, very young children. Records show that travel, biography and fiction are read by children 10 years old and upward; this is particularly true when books are placed in schools. Libraries may be placed in schoolhouses, churches, stores or private houses. Care and circulation are left entirely to local officers appointed for that purpose.

Besides libraries above mentioned, designated as the regular traveling libraries, there have been sent out to the women's clubs of the state special libraries, made up of 50 books bearing on subjects studied by the club. In preparing these the program of work is followed as a guide, and the result has been that during the past year 45 clubs have had special libraries to use in connection with their work. Reports received from these clubs show an excellence of work impossible without the aid of the special library.

It is not necessary to enlarge on the merits of this magnificent system of home education. 250 of these libraries are now circulating through the state, reaching hundreds of homes which have heretofore been deprived of the pleasure and profit of good reading. Women's clubs wishing to use special libraries during

the coming year are requested to make early applications as only a limited number of libraries on each subject can be furnished.

There are still some portions of the state untouched by the traveling library system. A few counties have none and in others only two or three have been located. Shall it not be the pleasant duty of the residents of these counties who are interested in the betterment of their homes, and who appreciate the educational value of their books, to work for the establishment of a traveling library in every village and outlying district in their county? This work belongs specially to the county commissioners and superintendents of schools and teachers. Farmers clubs and granges should also be centers of this great educational movement.

In order to encourage the establishing of public libraries, the commission lends traveling libraries to supplement the first books placed in new libraries. The following suggestions are made in a circular entitled *Free public libraries in Michigan*.

The public library is the point to which club women must look for help, not only for themselves but for those connected with them by family and social ties. The public library must be largely the outgrowth of united action on the part of club women in cities and villages. If public sentiment has not been aroused sufficiently to establish a library under the law of the state, organize free public library associations with the club as a center, raise money enough by subscription or in other ways to secure a room and place 100 volumes on the shelves. Then call on the board of library commissioners, who stand ready to lend 100 good books to communities complying with the above-mentioned conditions, the loan of books by the state to be continued until the library is self-supporting.

Recent laws provide for the registration of women's clubs and grange libraries, giving them the privilege of borrowing individual books.

Many of the general libraries are duplicated. The increase in demand for books other than fiction is shown in the statistics for 1900, one item of which gives the circulation of works on ethics as 1195 in contrast to a circulation of 745 in 1898. The circulation of the libraries as a whole for one year and 10 months ending July 1900 was 56,306 and the number of readers, 10,443. Printed finding lists are sent with the libraries. Oak bookcases are sent but the books are shipped in separate boxes.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin system of traveling libraries differs from that of other states in being formed chiefly of various county systems, each independently organized but all under general supervision of the state library commission, whose members visit as many stations as possible during the year and give assistance to the local authorities. The example of a few generous men in establishing and maintaining traveling libraries for their own counties has been followed by women's clubs, library associations and other organizations throughout the state. So effective has the county system proved that the legislature of 1901 passed a law on county traveling libraries, an extract from which follows.

The board of supervisors of any county may establish a board of libraries and elect 5 directors thereof, of either sex. The said board of libraries may appoint a supervising librarian for such county traveling libraries, at a salary not to exceed \$50 per annum, whose duty it shall be to arrange the books in their cases and repair them when slightly injured, keep the records, instruct the librarians of county traveling libraries in their duty, and perform such other duties as directed by the said board. It shall be the duty of the board of librarians to purchase suitable books for the county traveling libraries, arrange them in proper cases, and distribute such cases of books to as many districts as equally distant from each other as their means will permit, with the object of finally serving libraries within easy reach of all the people of the county. Such libraries may be located at suitable places in any town, village or city within the county, and not permitted to remain in one location longer than 6 months, except on application of not less than 5 patrons holding cards in such library, when such time may be extended not to exceed 30 days. On such removal another library may be loaned in its place successively for similar periods.

For the purpose of such county traveling libraries any county may appropriate the first year not to exceed \$500 and thereafter annually not to exceed \$200. The Wisconsin free library commission may advise any board of libraries as far as practicable in the conduct of its work.

A description of the Wisconsin systems now in operation is given in the approximate order of their establishment.

Stout free traveling library. The following description is based chiefly on a paper read at the A. L. A. conference in Philadelphia,

1897 [see *Local supervision of traveling libraries*, by F. A. Hutchins, in *Library journal*, October 1897].

The pioneer system was established by J. H. Stout in Dunn county and has been the pattern for all. Dunn county is in the northeastern part of the state, and while the first clearing within its limits was made about 50 years ago, large parts of it have been cleared and settled within the last 20 years. There is one hamlet of about 400 inhabitants and another of 300, but most of the people are farmers. In a few townships the farmers are fairly well-to-do, in a few they are struggling with a poor soil, and in others they are working out excellent farms on land that has been covered with heavy timber. Most of the country is hilly and the farms frequently follow the streams in the valleys. Many of the traveling library stations are not readily accessible to more than 15 or 20 families. There are three railroads in the county but most of the postoffices get their mail from stages. There are many Germans and Norwegians but the American spirit is dominant and the country schools are among the best in the state. Nearly every school has a library of from 10 to 40 volumes and each hamlet has a school library of from 50 to 200 volumes. Many of these books, however, are not suitable for children and few outside of the schools use them.

Senator Stout, now president of the regents of the state university, a trustee of the Mabel Tainter memorial library of Menomonie, found that the failure of the country people to use the library was due to the difficulty in getting and returning the books and not to a lack of appreciation of their value. With the cooperation of the Wisconsin free library commission, he has, since 1896, equipped and maintained 37 general traveling libraries for circulation in Dunn county. Before the books were bought F. A. Hutchins, an officer of the commission, carefully studied local conditions. The first libraries contained 30 volumes each, including only 10 for children because of the number of school libraries. The demand from children and persons who had read little English was so great, however, that juvenile books were afterward added to each library.

When the first 20 libraries were returned after a summer's use the librarians reported that many of the books had been

read by from 2 to 5 persons each time they were drawn and that in the more isolated neighborhoods the books of the traveling library furnished much of the material for common conversation.

The libraries are sent out from the Mabel Tainter memorial library in Menomonie to any library association in the county for 6 months to a year. The association elects a secretary and a librarian, agrees to be responsible for care of books and pays either transportation or a fee of \$1. Most libraries are in farmhouses, others are in country stores, postoffices and railway stations. Each library is sent in a strong bookcase which has a shelf and iron clamps on corners. A list of the books is fastened inside the doors.

Magazines are sent with each library and are retained by the borrowing locality. Cloth bound copies of the Wisconsin farmers institute bulletins, reports of state and agricultural societies and bulletins of the U. S. department of agriculture are given to the local library associations in hope that they will form nuclei of permanent libraries. Senator Stout has found many ways of interesting the leading people of the county in the work, but most of the details have been left in the hands of the librarian at Menomonie. She has visited the stations, has met the librarians and the readers constantly in her home library and has interested local editors, teachers, and all classes of citizens. She has also arranged two librarians institutes at Menomonie which were attended by the country librarians, the officers of the state commission and the county superintendent of schools. The meetings aroused great interest in all parts of the county and the country librarians who attended them were eager to catch every helpful suggestion.

J. D. Witter free traveling library association. In May 1896 J. D. Witter of Grand Rapids, for many years an active and liberal supporter of the T. B. Scott free library at his home, established a system of traveling libraries in Wood county.

Mr Witter followed Mr Stout's plan in the main but instead of sending libraries in bookcases he sent them in chests and made each local library association buy a bookcase large enough to accommodate about 75 volumes, hoping that the property interest in the bookcase and in the volumes that might come

to the association by gift and purchase might stimulate growth of permanent libraries.

Mr Witter's experiment and success are very like those of Mr Stout. Everywhere there was the same eagerness for books and everywhere the same welcome by thoughtful people who had been working for education with little outside help. Country schools and school libraries of Wood county are not as good as those of Dunn county. As a result, the books of Mr Witter's libraries do not circulate quite as freely as those of Mr Stout's but they are more needed and are doing at least as much good. Mr Witter started with 15 libraries of 30 volumes each but soon added 10 more volumes of children's books to each library and then added 12 more libraries.¹ He has recently bought 300 more volumes to be added to older libraries and to form new ones. He has also bought German books to go to communities where the older people can not read English. To Nekoosa, a small village of about 600 people which has grown up about a large paper mill within the past four years, he sent one library and then added a second and a third, as even two could not supply the demand. At Pittsville the library is in the shop of a barber, intelligent and friendly with boys and girls. He had two libraries nearly a year without exchange because most books were out all the time. At Biron, where a hamlet has grown up about a paper mill, a reading room has been started to cooperate with the library. Mr Witter furnishes magazines and newspapers and the people heat and light and care for it. It is hoped that Mr Witter's experiment will lead to similar experiments in other mill towns. Of the traveling libraries now at work in Wisconsin no other seems to be doing as much good as the one in a little hamlet in Wood county, where the librarian is "section boss" on the railroad, postmaster, clerk of the school district, and an officer of the town. The people are German and Bohemian farmers and little given to books, but the librarian and his wife have looked after all the little boys and girls and manage to get them to read the books and papers, or at least look at the pictures, and through the children they are reaching the homes and the older people.

Mr Witter has placed the control of his libraries in the hands of the board of trustees of the T. B. Scott free public library, of which he is a member. The librarian of this library has charge of the field work in connection with the secretary and librarian of the Wisconsin free library commission. The possibilities of Mr Witter's work have appealed most strongly to many of his neighbors, and his fellow trustees have been as enthusiastic as

¹In 1900, 1280 volumes were in circulation in 32 libraries.

himself. On account of their interest and efforts, the work of the public library in Grand Rapids has been greatly stimulated, its circulation has greatly increased, and the character of the reading has improved. Thus the work for others has borne fruit at home. *Free traveling libraries in Wisconsin*, p. 12, Madison Wis. 1897

A library campaign in the interests of the Witter traveling libraries was conducted in September 1897. Mrs W. B. Raymond, then head librarian of the Witter free traveling libraries, and Miss L. E. Stearns and F. A. Hutchins, of the free library commission, made a driving tour through Wood county, stopping at farmhouses to inspect the libraries and find how they might be improved. 17 library stations were visited and 4 public meetings were held. This preliminary campaign resulted in a large attendance at the librarian's institute held at Grand Rapids Wis., in October 1897.

Tomahawk free traveling libraries. W. H. Bradley, of Tomahawk, is trying a somewhat different experiment. He is president of the Tomahawk lumber co., which conducts great enterprises in the northern part of Lincoln county. He manages not only mills and lumber camps but a number of stores in and near Tomahawk. He has bought a few hundred books with which he has started a free library at Tomahawk. From this center he will make up smaller libraries and send them to his storekeepers in outlying hamlets for use of mill men and farmers. These smaller libraries will not be permanent collections of books, but in number and quality will be selected to meet the needs of the settlement to which they go. Mr Bradley has also started a free reading room in Tomahawk and will send out with his small libraries magazines and papers which have been read there. The stranger who looks out on the horizon at Tomahawk seems to see an unbroken forest but all through a large number of townships, are scattered settlers who will gladly travel many miles to get good simple books and illustrated magazines for their children. The monotony of the winter's evenings where one or two or three families live a mile or a few miles from any neighbors gives abundant time for thoughtful reading and such people talk over their reading with a zest unknown in most city families. Mr Bradley counts much on the pleasure his books and papers will give to his mill hands and the men in his lumber camps. *Free traveling libraries in Wisconsin*, p. 16, Madison Wis. 1897

Chippewa Falls traveling library association. In 1896 a system to encourage small communities of Chippewa county in starting permanent libraries was established. The association now has 9 general libraries of 35 volumes each which it lends to communities forming library associations and signing guaranties for safe return of the books. Though some of the libraries are sent to places 50 miles distant, the borrowers have in every case sent wagons for their transportation. No fee is charged and libraries may be kept 6 months. The smallest circulation of one library is 65, the largest 309. 4 permanent libraries have been established in the county.

Greenbay, Clubwomen's traveling library association. The association has 11 traveling libraries which it sends to neighboring towns and farming communities. They contain about 55 volumes and copies of magazines which may be retained by the borrowing community. The varnished pine bookcases are used as shipping boxes also.

Beloit city federation of women's clubs. 5 libraries are lent to country districts for 3 months. Funds are contributed by club women and libraries are in charge of a board of city federation officers and presidents of federated clubs. Libraries are general in character and contain 50 volumes each. Unbound numbers of magazines are added and may be retained by the borrowing community. In 1900, 4 of the libraries were sent to small places where the people had access to no other libraries. A correspondent reports that "when the work was started in 1898 it was hard to place the libraries but now they run themselves. To the inquiry whether he would like a traveling library, an old farmer wrote that he was 'a farmer and didn't want to travel for no-body and wouldn't be worked'."

Eau Claire, Woman's club. From the rest room established in Eau Claire by the woman's club, traveling libraries owned by the club are sent out to country communities of Eau Claire county. Members of the club traveling library committee meet the borrowers in the rest room and talk over the books with them. With the cooperation of the librarian of the public library, who is on the committee, 10 libraries of 30 volumes each have been equipped during the last year and are sent in iron-bound pine

bookcases having double doors and iron handles. Typewritten lists of the contents of the cases are pasted on the inside of the doors. Transportation is paid by borrowers but no fee is required.

Marinette free traveling library association. 9 general traveling libraries of 50 volumes each are lent in Marinette county. Funds are given and transportation is paid by the William Shakespeare club of Marinette. Any 10 residents of the county may, on signing an agreement, borrow a library for one year.

Wausau free traveling library association of the Ladies literary club. The association has 15 traveling libraries for circulation among towns and school districts in Marathon county. Residents may borrow a library by forming an association and agreeing to observe rules, to return the library within 6 months, to place it in a convenient place, to make no charge for use of books and to collect fines for loss or injury. Transportation is paid by the central association at Wausau. Of the 5 special subject libraries one is on history, one on science, one is of German books, one of juvenile books and one is wholly fiction. Bookcases are of stained wood and have three compartments, double doors and lock and key. Typewritten lists of contents are fastened on inside of doors.

Winnebago county, Board of libraries. Under the new Wisconsin law which allows counties to provide systems of traveling libraries, Winnebago county has appropriated \$500 and established a system under supervision of the Oshkosh public library. 15 libraries of about 50 volumes each were given and 8 more have been equipped by the board. Each library contains 5 German books. The borrowing community must organize a library association of 10 citizens or establish a permanent public library and must agree to pay transportation, provide a suitable place for the library, lend books without charge and be responsible for the safe return of books. A box of magazines is sent with each library and may be retained.

Free library commission. In addition to its advisory relation to county systems, the commission sends directly from Madison about 80 traveling libraries which have been equipped through funds given chiefly by individuals. Libraries and library associations may, on filing a written agreement and paying transportation, borrow libraries of 50 volumes for 6 months. An

association must elect a secretary and librarian and secure the signature of 10 taxpayers who agree to be responsible for the library's safe return. During the last year a greater cooperation between the borrowing communities and the commission has been encouraged. Towns which have not received traveling libraries have been urged to give to the commission \$50 for equipping a traveling library and to become permanent traveling library stations. Several towns have adopted this suggestion, among them a village of scarcely 100 fisher folk.

The selection of libraries for the different stations is based largely on statistics, kept by the local librarians, which show the daily circulation of adult and juvenile books in the 10 classes of the *Decimal classification*. Each library contains books for children, including two volumes of *St Nicholas*. 11 German libraries have recently been prepared for circulation in districts where the population is largely German and there is one subject library on American history. A recent law authorizes equipment of subject libraries for study clubs and these will be prepared as soon as funds are available. Printed annotated catalogues accompany each library and the American history list contains an outline of study with suggestions for collateral reading. No attempt is made to supply bookcases. In 1900, 136 libraries containing 3525 volumes were lent to 72 small towns and about 75 boxes of magazines were sent to places to which the commission could not send traveling libraries. In 1897 the commission prepared a lecture illustrated with views of traveling library stations, to be given in cities to aid in obtaining gifts of magazines and books for circulation in northern lumber towns. The following is from a circular letter sent out by the commission asking gifts for libraries to be sent to Wisconsin troops in the Spanish war.

The Wisconsin free library commission is making arrangements to supply reading matter, in the form of traveling libraries and magazines, to the Wisconsin troops who are in camp in the south. The commission now has some complete volumes of unbound magazines on hand which will be forwarded immediately. As soon as possible other magazines and illustrated periodicals will be collected and forwarded. The books to be sent to the front will be packed in substantial, waterproof cases with

handles, and will be in such shape that a man can easily carry one. Each case will contain 15 or 18 volumes, with a simple system of records and blanks so that an account of the books can be kept. 12 of these traveling libraries will be sent to each regiment and the proper officer will then send one to each company. In a few weeks there will be a general exchange of libraries in each regiment. Illustrated papers like *Harper's weekly* and the *Scientific American* will be cheaply but substantially bound with a half dozen copies in each volume. No controversial literature will be forwarded. Books of wholesome adventure and biographies of great American military and naval commanders, histories of the civil war and stories of camp life are specially desired. Any paper-covered volumes which may be contributed will be circulated freely in the camps but will not be returned to the libraries by the soldiers who take them.

The possibilities of the rural free delivery as a means of bringing books from town and city libraries to country districts have been widely recognized, but the Wisconsin free library commission has taken an active interest in devising practicable plans for putting the idea into operation. At a meeting of the Wisconsin library association at Eau Claire, Feb. 22, 1901, a committee was appointed to formulate a plan. L. M. Newman of Chippewa Falls Wis., the chairman, says:

The "library spirit" has so thoroughly permeated our country that now all of its larger cities, towns, and villages, and many of its smaller ones possess fine public libraries of suitable size and managed under modern methods. But while the cities and towns are liberally supplied with intellectual pabulum in the form of books, magazines, and newspapers supplied by the public libraries, so that all may read, without money and without price, there exists a condition of intellectual starvation in the rural districts immediately surrounding these. The average farmer is not largely given to the buying of books, and he fails to sympathize with the cravings of his son or his daughter for that larger form of education which comes from the reading of books. To bring the refining and educational influence of good literature more freely to the rural districts was one of the motives leading up to the establishment of the rural free delivery system of the U. S. postoffice.

The first assistant postmaster general, in his report upon the rural free delivery system says: "To these material advantages (of the system) may be added the educational advantages conferred by relieving the monotony of farm life through ready ac-

cess to wholesome literature, and keeping the rural residents, young people as well as their elders, fully informed as to the stirring events of the day. The moral value of these civilizing influences can not be too highly rated."

But the usefulness of the rural free delivery may be enormously encouraged and extended. It is believed that nearly every public library, actuated by that high missionary spirit which is characteristic of modern library work, would willingly send its books to country residents along rural delivery routes, could that be done without cost. But it is evident that the libraries could not, and the farmers would not pay the postage necessary to the transportation of books through the mail. The committee upon examination of the subject discovered that authority to admit books to the mails free of postage can only be obtained through an act of congress. In view of the educational spirit underlying the rural free delivery system, there is little doubt that congress would pass a bill granting this authority, because while the benefits accruing to the rural districts would be very great, the cost to the government of maintaining the rural routes would thereby be in no wise increased. The authority sought should only cover the delivery, free of postage, and under proper restrictions, of books from a regularly constituted free public library, addressed to residents along the line of a rural free delivery route.

To frame such a bill and secure its passage will be the work of this committee. Before doing this however it is desirable to obtain an expression of opinion from all parts of the country as to the feasibility and desirability of the plan. To this end the committee proposes to submit the scheme with a request for opinions to every postmaster where there is a library and rural delivery, and to every library board where there is a rural delivery. Should a large majority of these opinions be favorable, the committee would submit the plan and the sentiments thus obtained to the officers of the postoffice departments and endeavor to secure their friendship for the bill before its introduction into congress. It is desired that all who are interested in this movement will communicate with the committee, expressing sympathy with it and making such suggestions as the writers may deem needful to the success of the work.

State federation of women's clubs. Though the federation libraries are not directly under commission supervision, an officer of the federation is a member of the commission and the traveling libraries have therefore been established with the cooperation of both. The federation lends libraries to federated clubs, small towns

and farming communities. The controlling committee is made up of the executive officers of the federation and members appointed by the president and receives its funds by contribution from the clubs and from a 10 cent per capita tax. The 10 subject libraries are on Shakspeare, the *Marble faun*, a "Group of art poems," education, Wisconsin history, United States history, American literature, domestic economy, painting and sculpture and English literature. These are lent to clubs for the study year, and each is accompanied by outlines of study and reference lists. The 50 general libraries are lent to communities for periods of 6 months. With these are sent unbound copies of magazines to be kept by the borrowers. In 1896 2 libraries were lent. In 1900, 57 libraries were sent out and of the places receiving them 54 have less than 1000 inhabitants. Catalogues and outlines of study are sent with each subject library but the general libraries are not catalogued. The bookcases, used as shipping boxes also, have double doors, Yale lock and two shelves with a compartment at the end for large volumes. Each library bought by the committee is accessioned by itself and a record book shows dates of issue and return of the libraries.

MINNESOTA

Public library commission. A bill providing for traveling libraries and appointing a public library commission became a law in April 1899. The president of the Minnesota state university, state superintendent of public instruction and secretary of the state historical society are ex-officio members of the commission of which the other two members are appointed by the governor. The law appropriated \$5000 for 1900 and \$5000 for 1901 and authorized the commission to buy and equip traveling libraries and prescribe rules for their circulation. The libraries are lent on application of 10 taxpayers who form a library association and agree to observe the rules and be responsible for the return of books. Applications must designate the place in which the library will be kept and give names of librarian and secretary. Fees are \$1 for 50 volumes and 50c for 25 volumes. Transportation is paid by the state. Libraries are lent for 6 months but may be kept longer for 25c for each month. The rules require that the books shall be free to every one in

the community and that a record of circulation shall be reported. If the library is lent to a public library it is subject to the rules of that library. Borrowers cards, agreement blanks, charging cards, printed rules and annotated catalogues (sold by local librarians at 1c each) are sent with each library. Of the 145 libraries now available, 100 contain 50 volumes and 45 have 25 volumes each. 20 libraries are duplicated 5 times and 15 libraries 3 times. 3 are subject libraries on French history, United States history and history of art. Each of the 50 volume libraries is grouped around some subject, e. g., library no. 3 includes, among other books treating of the American revolution, Fisher's *True Benjamin Franklin*, Fiske's *American revolution*, Churchill's *Richard Carrel* and Mitchell's *Hugh Wynne*. The libraries travel in their cases which are of hard wood, 25x20x8 in. and have two shelves and two doors. The top and bottom are bound with iron bands, an iron bar is fastened across the doors with a spring pin, and each case has a lock and two handles. In 1900, 84 libraries were lent to 87 places of which 58 have less than 1000 inhabitants.

Northern Minnesota traveling library association. An association was formed in Duluth in 1898 by the women's clubs to send traveling libraries to small towns in northern Minnesota. Its 6 libraries will, however, be given by the association to the state commission when they are returned by their present borrowers. The board now controlling the libraries consists of one member from each literary club in the city and one member of the Duluth public library board. Funds are obtained from contributions. The libraries are sent from the Duluth public library and contain 40 volumes each, about half of which are fiction. Old magazines sent with the libraries may be kept by the borrowers. Application for a library must come from a library association of at least 10 residents who agree to be responsible for its safekeeping and return, and to observe the rules. No fixed time limit is made and the library may be kept till sent for. Transportation is paid by the Northern Minnesota traveling library association unless the borrowers are willing to bear the expense. The bookcases are like those of the Stout free traveling libraries of Wisconsin. In 1900, 6 libraries and many boxes of magazines were sent to towns in the mining and lumbering districts.

Minneapolis women's council. In February 1898 the Minneapolis women's council established a system of traveling libraries for Hennepin county. Books and cases for 13 libraries of 50 volumes each were given by members. Libraries were lent for 6 months to any community in the county on application of 10 adult residents and payment of \$1 for transportation. The libraries were in constant circulation and visited 14 villages in 1900. They have recently, however, been given by the Women's council to the Minnesota public library commission.

Rochester traveling library association. Organized in 1898 by the Woman's club of Rochester. The gift of \$100 and books enabled the association to equip 8 libraries of about 44 volumes each. Libraries are sent for 6 months to any neighboring community on the guaranty of 10 responsible persons and the payment of \$1 for transportation. If a borrower takes the library in his wagon, the fee paid is added to the general fund of the association. In 1900 the libraries visited 8 places, all small towns or country districts almost destitute of reading matter.

Winona women's clubs. A system of traveling libraries was started for Winona county in November 1900. One library of 50 books, given by the Women's study club, was sent to Witoka. The Women's art club also is equipping a traveling library.

Mankato traveling library association. Since 1898 4 libraries have been sent by this association to neighboring towns. A fee of 25c is charged for each library.

IOWA

State library. Traveling libraries were established in Iowa in 1896 when the legislature appropriated \$4000 for the purpose and authorized any public, incorporated, school or college library to become an associate of the state library with the privilege of borrowing its books. When there is no library in the community books are lent on petition of 25 taxpayers. In 1899 a state library commission was created to aid libraries and cooperate with the state library in developing traveling libraries and \$2000 annually was appropriated for expenses. A library may be borrowed for 3 months on payment of transportation and filing a bond for \$200 signed by the library trustees or by 25 taxpayers. 90 libraries of 50 books each are now available. Except 3 juvenile libraries all

are general collections and contain 50% fiction. Books for study of special subjects are lent from the state library or are bought to meet the needs of borrowers. Most of the libraries, however, go to small towns and country districts. In 1900 the 90 libraries visited 47 places, all of less than 1000 inhabitants. The libraries have developed in the small towns an interest in public libraries, several of which have already been established.

MISSOURI

State federation of women's clubs. In Missouri traveling libraries are sent out from St Louis and Kansas City by the traveling library bureau appointed in 1898 by the state federation of women's clubs. Books and money are contributed by federated clubs and friends of the movement. Any reputable person in the state who files an application signed by 5 citizens and pays \$2 for transportation may borrow a traveling library for 4 months. The books are selected by the traveling library bureau and each book is read by some responsible person before it is placed in a library. Most of the libraries are general in character but 5 are special libraries on the United States and domestic science. Printed catalogues are sent with the libraries. Magazines are sent with the request that they shall be given to the county jail and poor farm. The bookcases, used as shipping boxes also, are of poplar, 36x19x9 in. and have two hasps and a padlock. 60 libraries of 50 volumes each are now available. Nearly all were sent in 1900 to small towns and country districts having no library privileges. A borrower of one of the libraries stationed in a rural community wrote that it was the first time in her life that she had had before her 50 books with the privilege of reading them. The first traveling library sent out was the means of starting, in Jefferson City where it was stationed, the movement for a public library which resulted in a gift from Andrew Carnegie of \$25,000 for a building. The federation is working for the passage of a bill to secure state support for traveling libraries.

KANSAS

State library. A department of traveling libraries was established in the state library in 1899 through the efforts of the Kansas federation of women's clubs which gave 3000 volumes and 34 cases as a nucleus. The directors of the state library were

authorized by the legislature to appoint 3 persons, who, with the state librarian and the president of the Kansas state social science federation of clubs, constitute a traveling library commission. \$1000 annually was appropriated for 2 years. A library is lent to a club, society, school district or other organization for 6 months on guaranty of safe return and payment of \$2. Books from the state library also are lent to responsible borrowers. 8 libraries are special collections of 50 books each on India, Egypt, Japan, English history and literature, art, sociology, and French history. A library of 58 volumes given by citizens of Topeka was sent to the Kansas soldiers in Manila. In addition to the books made available by the trustees of the state library, the commission has 5565 volumes in about 200 libraries. In a few places the libraries supplement local libraries but most of them go to communities having no other library privileges. The zinc bookcase, used also in shipping, is hinged in the middle and closes into a cube-shaped box.

NEBRASKA

Public library commission. Through the influence of the Nebraska federation of women's clubs and the state library association, the legislature passed a law in March 1901, creating a public library commission, establishing traveling libraries and appropriating \$4000 for their support. On payment of transportation, traveling libraries will be lent to libraries, colleges, schools, extension centers, Chautauqua circles, study clubs and other associations approved by the commission. Offices for the commission will be provided at the University of Nebraska library or in the state capitol. The traveling libraries controlled by the federation of women's clubs have been lent to club women only. Any club in good standing in the federation may borrow books for the club year. The selection of books is based on outlines of study, made out by the library committee on art, history, literature, child study, music, domestic science and political economy. There are no fixed groups of books. Catalogues of the library are printed in each yearbook of the federation. Books were sent to 26 clubs in 1899.

Humphrey, Condon public library. This library, privately supported, lends traveling libraries to neighboring towns under rules which govern the circulation of books in Humphrey.

NORTH DAKOTA

Department of public instruction. The legislature appropriates annually \$750 for the state department of public instruction to send traveling libraries to school districts. On payment of transportation and filing a written guaranty of the county superintendent of schools or of a teacher and school board, a library is lent to a school for 3 months. No charge may be made for local circulation and books must not be lent where there are contagious diseases. The department has 2500 volumes in 52 libraries, each with 10% to 25% fiction. Printed finding lists and rules are sent with the books. Each library is shipped in a bookcase of which one side opens with hinges at the bottom. In 1900 all of the libraries were sent to towns distant from cities.

MONTANA

The legislature of Montana appropriated \$1000 in 1895, \$500 in 1896 and \$300 annually thereafter for traveling libraries. Owing, however, to a deficit of funds, the money has never been available and no traveling libraries have been established.

COLORADO

State federation of women's clubs. In Colorado where distances are great, cities few, and population scattered, traveling libraries are specially useful. In hope that the legislature would ultimately provide for the library interests, the Colorado federation of women's clubs began in 1900 to send traveling libraries to mining camps, ranches and small towns and requested all constituent clubs to levy a 5 cent per capita tax for traveling library work. A few clubs responded and the traveling library committee has printed its report for 1900 largely to influence other clubs to do the same. A library is named for any club or individual giving 50 books and \$5 for the box. Each of the 42 libraries contains 50 books. Of these libraries 36 are general and contain 90% fiction. 6 are collections of juvenile books for isolated schools and contain also portfolios of mounted Perry pictures, each with a typewritten explanation on the back. There are no subject libraries but packages of 5 to 10 books for study are sent to clubs on application. A general traveling library, which may be kept 3 months with the privilege of extension of time, is sent at the request of any responsible person who will make the library ac-

cessible to the public. Transportation, when charged, is paid by the borrower, but some railroads carry the libraries without charge. The bookcases, which serve as shipping boxes also, have two shelves, are varnished and lettered and bear the name-plate of the giver. A record of circulation is kept in a book containing a list of the contents of the box. In 1900, 35 libraries were sent to 60 places, nearly all of which have less than 1000 inhabitants. The city council of Denver appropriated for 1901 a sum for the use of the traveling library committee of the state federation in supporting 2 reading rooms in sections of Denver remote from the public library. Traveling libraries have been sent to these stations as well as to 3 juvenile charitable institutions.

El Paso county. The county commissioners have appropriated \$500 for a system of traveling libraries. The work is in charge of the Colorado Springs public library. The 6 libraries now being equipped will be sent to any taxpayer in the county, to any one vouched for by a taxpayer or to any one who deposits \$1 for 6 months. Free transportation is hoped for.

UTAH

In Utah the women's clubs, which sent out the first boxes of books in October 1898, have secured free transportation for them from the railroads. *Library journal*, March 1899

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, Mercantile library association. In the hope of stimulating in California a demand for legislation providing traveling libraries, the Mercantile library association lends books from its large collection of duplicates. Members may by paying one quarter's dues in advance and giving bonds, become a "branch" of the association and select traveling libraries from titles in the catalogues of the Mercantile library. Persons who are not members may obtain traveling libraries by guarantying the safe return of books and paying in advance a fee of \$4 a month for each 100 volumes. A branch agreeing to use traveling libraries for 6 months may select from the Mercantile library catalogues, 50 titles of each library of 100 volumes. Freight one way is paid by the Mercantile library association.

OREGON

State federation of women's clubs. Since November 1900, the federation has sent traveling libraries to small towns, mines and ranches. With funds contributed by clubs, 5 libraries containing in all 175 books have been sent out. Free transportation has been given where railroads are available and in other cases free private conveyance has been had. Books are sent in plain, strong locked bookcases.

IDAHO

Free library commission. The following account of traveling library work in Idaho is given by the secretary of the recently appointed library commission:

Traveling libraries were first under control of the Woman's Columbian club of Boise which originated the movement in this state and raised the money to buy the first 15 cases. The club received so many applications which it was unable to fill, that it petitioned the legislature of 1901 to establish a free library commission to have charge of traveling libraries and to encourage establishment of permanent libraries. At the time the bill passed there were no free libraries in the state and only 3 subscription libraries. This club also introduced a bill allowing communities to impose a tax for the purpose of maintaining free libraries. Both bills passed unanimously also a bill making it compulsory for school districts to set aside 3% of all school moneys for library purposes, and with these new bills the commission hopes to accomplish something for libraries in Idaho.

While our libraries were under club control transportation was free on all railroad and stage lines. About half our cases go by stage and two stations can be reached only in July and August on account of snows the rest of the year. Some of our best stations are mining camps and money to equip one case was given by miners. Cases are of heavy pine, dove-tailed and have iron handles, brass hinges and locks. An extra crate is used in shipping.

WASHINGTON

The legislature passed a general library act based on the laws of New York and other states which have proved successful. Also a law creating a state library commission of 6 members, viz: superintendent of public instruction, president of the state university, president of the eastern Washington agricultural college, one member to be appointed by the state federation of women's clubs and 2, one a woman, to be appointed by the governor. Provision was made for a traveling library system to be main-

tained by the state under control of the commission. *Public libraries*, May 1901

STATES LEGALIZING TRAVELING LIBRARIES

With dates when systems were recognized

1892 New York

1895 Michigan

" Montana

Appropriations never became available.

1896 Iowa

" Ohio

1897 Wisconsin

1898 New Jersey

First appropriation was made in 1899.

1899 Delaware

Since 1899, an annual appropriation has been made for traveling libraries for schools. The commission was appointed in 1901.

" Indiana

" Kansas

" Maine

" Minnesota

" North Dakota

An annual appropriation for department of public instruction.

" Pennsylvania

" Illinois

An appropriation to Illinois farmers institute.

1900 Vermont

1901 Nebraska

" Idaho

" North Carolina

An appropriation for school libraries.

" Washington

ALLIED AGENCIES

The best known agencies for lending books and pamphlets throughout the United States, without territorial restrictions, are described in the pages following.

American seamen's friend society of New York. The society, founded in 1828, has established sailors homes, mission stations, societies for entertainment of sailors in port and traveling libraries for vessels. Since 1858 the society has lent books chiefly to American ships sailing from New York but also to naval hospitals

and lifesaving stations. Funds are contributed by churches and other organizations and by individuals. The libraries include books on travel and adventure, biography, popular science, history, fiction, and religion and each contains a Bible, an atlas, a dictionary and books in German, Danish, Swedish and other languages. Each library of 43 volumes is sent in a bookcase and remains on the vessel throughout the voyage, which varies in length from one to six years. Vessels which sail from port to port often change crews at each, so that during one voyage the same library may be read by several crews. Into each case is put a printed list of questions regarding the interest and utility of the books. The information thus received is sent to givers of libraries and is printed in the *Life boat*, a periodical published monthly by the society. Each giver of a library receives also a statement of new libraries issued. The 72d annual report of the society gives the following statistics:

During the year ending Mar. 31, 1900 the society has sent out 318 libraries, 131 new and 187 refitted and reshipped, a total of 12,674 volumes available during the year to 4979 seamen. The number of libraries placed on naval vessels and in hospitals up to date is 1068, containing 39,006 volumes, accessible to 125,185 men. In the stations of the lifesaving service are 160 libraries containing 6250 volumes accessible to 1308 keepers and surfmen.

U. S. navy department, Bureau of equipment. The ships and crews libraries furnished by the navy department are thus described by A. C. Wrenn, acting chief of the bureau of equipment.

A ship's library and a crew's library are provided for nearly every ship in the navy and form a regular part of the ship's allowance and outfit. The ship's library is for use of officers attached to the ship, and the crew's library is for the enlisted force on a ship. The books in both libraries are in 31 classes but certain classes of books are furnished to ships libraries and not to crews libraries, and vice versa. The character of the books differs in the same class for ships or crews libraries, those in the latter being for popular reading.

The number of volumes assigned to each library varies with size of ship, number of officers and enlisted men carried, space available for proper care and stowage of books, and, to some extent, character of service in which the ship is engaged. Ships libraries vary from 150 to 1000 volumes, and crews libraries from 150 to 800 volumes, the largest ships libraries being furnished

to flag ships, and the largest crews libraries to battle ships and armored cruisers.

When libraries have been presented to ships by cities or citizens, the books composing them are used by officers and men alike, as a rule, and such libraries are held for the use of that ship only, whether the ship is actively in or out of commission. When ships are put out of commission the libraries are turned into store at navy yards or stations, the same as any other stores. The books are "surveyed" for conditions, etc. and are disposed of according to approved recommendations to be sold, repaired, or held for reissue. When a ship is about to be commissioned, libraries are made up from the general list of books, which are changing constantly as books are struck off or added, and ships thus receive as a rule the newest and latest books.

U. S. lighthouse board. Traveling libraries for lighthouse employees are sent to all stations from the general lighthouse depot at Tompkinsville S. I. (N. Y.) The 3759 volumes available are arranged in libraries of about 35 volumes and each is packed in a brass-bound case containing also a written catalogue of contents and a charging book. The principal keeper of each station acts as librarian and lends the books to all light keepers and members of their families resident at the station.

International committee of Y. M. C. A. of North America, army and navy department. The secretary describes the work as follows:

In the work of the Y. M. C. A. in the army during the Spanish-American war, it became evident that the provision of good literature was one of the most influential and attractive lines of work. Even during the progress of the war when the work was necessarily of a transient character, a number of secretaries in regimental and brigade tents in the southern camps made collections of books for loan libraries in addition to keeping abundant supplies of papers and magazines on the tables. It was found that books not only attracted a better class of soldiers, but gave opportunity to direct their reading in a way impossible when only newspapers and magazines were provided.

With the establishment of garrisons in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands and the resumption of ordinary routine in the posts in the United States, the need of similar provision at the different places investigated by association representatives was very plain. While a number of post and company libraries were already in existence, they were very frequently composed of books which afforded little attraction to a soldier who needed encouragement to mental effort. A settled system for mak-

ing additions was seldom found, so that the tendency among the older men was to use the books less and less and finally leave them entirely for the recruits as they came in from civil life. The majority of these places being outside the circle reached by other systems, it seemed an exceptional opportunity to the international committee to supplement these libraries, make them more useful by providing new books which would draw attention to the good things in the old libraries, and in places where no such libraries existed, to give an opportunity for reading which had been denied before.

A beginning was made in October 1899, when friends provided money for purchasing books and cases for 5 libraries containing about 60 volumes each. So hearty was their reception that this number has been increased as rapidly as necessary funds have been secured. At present 75 libraries are in constant circulation in posts scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the United States, as well as in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, and have also been placed on battle ships and cruisers of the U. S. navy. The demand has always exceeded the supply.

In entering this untried field we were at the disadvantage of not knowing what classes of books to include; therefore, the first collections were composed almost entirely of fiction, as it was supposed that the principal, if not the entire demand, would be for books for recreative reading. Experience has shown that this was an error, for while fiction is in greatest demand, travel, history, science and general literature are receiving an amount of attention that warrants belief that a much greater educational influence can be exerted than was hoped for when the system was established. This influence is of course greatest where a secretary can be employed who will interest himself in endeavoring to give direction to the men's reading. While the selections vary, an effort is made to maintain the average number of books in each case about as follows: 60% fiction, 15% history and biography, 5% travel, 5% religious and 15% miscellaneous.

To secure the general interest of enlisted men and lead them to appreciate the privilege which we believe we are offering is not always an easy matter. To overcome this indifference and encourage them to use the books freely, an attractive piece of printed matter arranged to serve the double purpose of a book mark and finding list has been found useful. When this is circulated freely through barracks and offices, it rarely fails to create interest and secure new readers.

A very simple card charging system is used and as each reader receipts personally for the borrowed book, very few are lost.

The success of the system thus far has encouraged the com-

mittee to include in plans for the future an enlargement of the system as rapidly as conditions warrant, the arrangement of selections of technical works for the special use of men studying for promotion, and the organization of a system of loan collections of pictures for circulation in army posts in the states.

Boston and Albany railroad. The library was opened in Boston, free to all employees in February 1869, and was moved to its present location, the general office at Springfield Mass., about 1881. It now numbers about 3000 volumes, of which 500 are for reference, and its circulation is about 3000 a year. It has received numerous gifts of money and books but is chiefly supported by annual appropriations of the company. Its government is vested in a committee of 5, 2 directors, clerk, assistant superintendent, and master mechanic.

Books from stations must be in the library Wednesday morning if others are to be sent in the same week. Any book received after that time will be checked off but no more sent till the following week. Each borrower may draw 2 books at a time which may be retained 2 weeks, after which if not returned or renewed, they are subject to a fine of 1c a day. A revised catalogue was published in 1889, and since then 4 supplements have been issued; from these the borrowers select their books. S. H. Ranck in *Library journal*, Jan. 1897

Baltimore and Ohio railroad. In 1884 the late Dr W. T. Barnard was "assistant to president" of the B. & O. corporation, and to him the library is largely, if not entirely, due. Dr Barnard was actively interested in the B. & O. relief association (now the relief department), and thus acquired a knowledge "of the sad lack of educational facilities along the main stem and branches of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad." He therefore undertook to establish a free circulating library "exclusively for the use of the employees and families of employees of this service." His plan was outlined in a circular, dated Dec. 1, 1884, from which the following is taken:

"The establishment of a free circulating library for the employees of the company is undertaken in the belief that such an institution will be welcomed by all classes as a popular and desirable measure, and that, through its agency and development, much-needed opportunity will be afforded employees to qualify themselves for promotion and advancement in life, while at the same time their children, wherever located, will have at hand facilities for study and instructive reading matter seldom obtain-

able outside large cities. This will be done without cost to employees and in such a manner that the books furnished can be utilized not only at reading rooms (not always convenient of access), but also amid the comforts and society of their homes.

The plan, in brief, is, by means of contributions of money and books, to establish a compact general and technical library selected with special reference to the wants and tastes of employees and their families; to print inexpensive but carefully prepared catalogues and cards on which to make requisitions for books, and so to distribute them that every member can receive and return literature, without delay, through the company's train service. This library is therefore to be exclusively for the use of all employees, their wives, and more particularly, their children. Its mission will be to exert an elevating and educating influence on those it reaches. It will supply current periodicals, standard works on the sciences, general literature, poetry, historical, text, and other books of practical utility to engineers, mechanics, firemen, and other railroad employees, and those specially adapted to educating and forming the character of the young. Whatever is immoral in tendency will be rigidly excluded from its shelves, and its management will do all it can to discourage the use of literature from which unhealthy and unreal ideas of life might be drawn.

It has been created and will be sustained by voluntary contributions of money and literature from the officers and employees of the Baltimore and Ohio company and outside friends interested in their welfare. Its headquarters will be at Baltimore; but it will undertake to distribute books, etc., to any point on the B. and O. railroad lines."

This plan received official sanction of the company Mar. 2, 1885, through an order of Pres. Robert Garrett providing for management by a library committee. The president of the company appoints the librarian. The library committee appealed for aid to those only who were financially interested in the company. They collected \$5391 and received as gifts about 1500 well-selected books. The nucleus was a gift of 600 volumes to the employees at Mt Clare by the late John W. Garrett, in September 1869.

Dec. 3, 1885, the library began work with 4500 volumes on its shelves, 3000 of which had been bought. The first year 16,120 volumes were circulated, 4850 at Mt Clare, and the remainder at different stations on the lines of the B. & O. The circulation for the second year was 23,514; for the third year, 23,470, a slight decrease. The fourth year showed an increase of more than 2000 over the previous year; and since then there has been a steady growth in the circulation. The circulation for 1895

was 37,702, and in 1896 2500 borrowers drew 39,905 volumes from the library. Since 1885 more than 300,000 volumes have been drawn.

These books travel as far westward as the Mississippi river, through 8 great states, and over a railway system approximating 3000 miles. They are delivered to borrowers through local agents, and the average time, from the placing of an order for a book in the hands of an agent till the book called for is in his hands, is now less than 24 hours for the entire system. The library uses 674 agencies, each serving as a delivery station for employees of the community or department.

With increase in number of books used there has been decrease in percentage of fiction. The first year 64% of the circulation was fiction; now it is less than 53%.

A book may be retained 2 weeks, and may be once renewed for a like period, or oftener, if no application for it is on file. There is a fine of 1c a day on books kept over time, but a margin of 3 days is allowed to cover time consumed in transit.

On leaving the service of the company all books must be returned before pay-vouchers are cashed; otherwise the value of the book will be deducted from the employee's wages.

The whole system of sending out and returning a book is similar to that of the registry department of the postoffice. Every person who handles a package receipts for it, so that it is possible to trace anything lost. The company is responsible for all books in transit, and it exacts the same care in handling library property that is required for all other property.

The system of ordering and charging books for circulation is very simple. The borrower fills out a requisition blank by writing the name and call numbers of the books he wants, which he selects from printed catalogues, and by signing his name and address and the department in which he is employed. The requisition is then countersigned by the agent through whom he wishes to get the book, and it is sent to the librarian at Mt Clare, Baltimore. The librarian takes the first book on the list (using his discretion, however, in case of fiction, to select for the reader), and then makes out a record card for the transaction. On this card is entered date, requisition, book, agency and package number, and name of borrower. The card is filed in order of book number. Another entry is made on a card under agency number. This entry shows how many and what books are at any agency at any time. When a book is returned its number is marked off on the agency card, and the charge on the card filed under book number is canceled. A new series of requisition numbers begins every year on Dec. 1, and the requisition number is always the total circulation of the fiscal year to date.

After all entries have been duly made and requisitions stamped and dated, books are wrapped in packages, stamped and labeled for delivery through the baggage department to agents along the lines. Several agencies take such a number of books that satchels are used in carrying them back and forth.

To prolong life and usefulness of books, and at lowest possible cost, the librarian uses for binding and repair the leather from worn car seats, which he gets from the passenger car repair shops. The leather is practically useless when it is removed from the seats, but the pieces he is able to get make a binding that is both neat and durable.

Mr Irving, the enthusiastic librarian, and his assistants are busy getting books ready "to catch trains," and when the trains for the day have been "caught," he will be able to talk to you about his work, but not before. Once a year he goes over the lines, visiting all the agents in the interest of the library. This is done during the summer, when, for about four weeks, the library is closed. The library now contains about 14,000 volumes. S. H. Ranck, in *Library journal*, January 1897

Railroad branch of Young men's Christian association of New York city. The library was founded in 1887, by Cornelius Vanderbilt for use of members on railroad lines terminating at the Grand Central station in New York. Employees of leased lines and affiliated companies, such as express and railway mail service are admitted to membership. To accommodate men belonging to the association at points along the lines of the different roads, books are sent to these associations by train service without expense to the library and are delivered at stations as far from New York as Buffalo, Watertown and Hartford or sent to other railroad Y. M. C. associations without charge. Members wishing to draw books for themselves or their families fill out a requisition blank, giving names and numbers of books desired. This blank is then countersigned by the secretary of the local association and forwarded to the library in New York. When 10 or 20 books are sent in one lot a small telescopic valise is used. The books are all charged to the local association, the secretary of which makes the individual charges and assumes responsibility. Books may be kept 2 weeks and may be renewed. Employees at stations where there is no railroad Y. M. C. A. are allowed a special library membership in the New York association for \$1 a year, and books are sent directly to such members. Printed catalogues are supplied. The library now contains 9000 volumes

of which 800 are on railroads. 1200 to 2000 volumes are drawn each month.

In addition to its regular circulating department the library has 6 traveling libraries of about 65 volumes each which are placed in freight stations, piers and headquarters of marine departments for use of members of the N. Y. railroad association. The librarian's report for 1900 says:

The traveling library sent to St Johns Park the first part of the year circulated 102 volumes. The next library which was sent in exchange circulated 58 volumes. There are 25 readers. The library sent to Barclay street freight office reported 13 volumes drawn by 9 readers. The libraries sent to Barclay street (marine) and to Franklin street freight office were not used much owing to the fact that there are few members at these places.

Of these 6 libraries 5 are general and 1 is a subject library of 70 volumes on the Bible. The traveling libraries are sent in polished, hardwood bookcases with typewritten classified lists of contents. The loan of a traveling library does not deprive members of the privilege of drawing books directly from the main library. The librarian writes:

The traveling library work is a supplement to the library work of the branches within the city and at other associations throughout the state, as nearly all these associations have libraries of 500 or 1000 volumes. The books are delivered by train service or railway baggage. The packages are not registered, except the very large ones, which are sent by express. In the case of the loss of any book in transit, there is no way of tracing it and it is simply replaced by another book. The association loses each year about a dozen books out of several thousand delivered in this manner.

The traveling library work on the New York Central railroad is quite incidental. If all of the libraries on the New York Central system could be brought under one supervision and have uniform help by way of acquisitions and methods of distributing, better results could be obtained. One difficulty in bringing about a scheme of this kind would be that each association is practically independent of any other and they would be loath to tie themselves to an outside scheme. A traveling librarian might be employed to visit the libraries along the route.

Seaboard air line railway. The traveling libraries of the Seaboard air line railway were established for the use of towns along

its route in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Through recent gifts from Andrew Carnegie it has been possible to enlarge the system which began with 10 traveling libraries, so that 35 libraries are now sent out from the distributing office at Middleton Ga., and several more are in preparation. On application of representative citizens a library is sent by the Seaboard air line railway to a town for 3 months. In addition to general libraries there are a few collections on agricultural subjects. A special effort is made to supply libraries to rural schools along the railroad and libraries are offered as prizes to schools that make progress in decorating their buildings. At a recent convention at Jacksonville Fla. of those interested in educational work along the Seaboard air line, reports from superintendents of public instruction and commissioners indicated an improvement in the schools due to the influence of the traveling libraries. During the last 6 months 60 schoolhouses have made such noticeable improvement in every respect that they have not only received a Union flag, presented by the Youth's Companion co., but also have been placed on the list of schools entitled to a free traveling school library. The report given at this meeting by Mrs E. B. Heard, general superintendent of the traveling libraries, contains the following statements:

Our accession number is now 2500, and the movement has received such hearty support from various givers that we shall greatly enlarge our system, by adding to it a number of libraries for the rural schools on our line. Henceforth school libraries are offered as prizes to schools that make noteworthy progress in the outward and inward adornment of the schoolhouse. The school in the country is a part of the community more than it is in the city. We must rely on its instructions to make farm life more attractive, as well as more profitable. The reports from our local librarians show a high appreciation of the books. The readers in most farming districts average a book for every 2 weeks. Our efforts have been to supply isolated communities with strong, healthful, popular books, such as may be found in the best public libraries. I wish we could read you some of the letters of appreciation that have come to us from our patrons. The penmanship is not of the late vertical style and the spelling is sometimes phonetic but those letters have given the superintendent more inspiration than a \$5000 salary would have done. I do not believe that Mr Carnegie has ever bestowed his bounty more wisely, or in a way where he will so quickly realize the good

he desires his gifts to accomplish, than when he put in motion the Andrew Carnegie system of free traveling school libraries.

Collections of books on village improvement and similar topics are lent to communities forming village improvement clubs. Printed annotated finding lists are sent with the libraries. The books are shipped in hardwood cases which are made at the Seaboard air line railway shops and have iron-bound corners, adjustable shelves, and lock and key. In 1900 the libraries visited 140 towns, nearly all of which are remote from cities.

Wells Fargo & Co. library associations. The following description of the work of the association is written by the assistant manager of the company's Atlantic department.

These libraries were organized at the suggestion of our president, John J. Valentine of San Francisco, the first being established at San Francisco about 10 years ago, the second at New York in 1897, and the third at Chicago in 1898. Since then one has been started at Kansas City and another at the City of Mexico. The organizations are not incorporated. They are all known as Wells Fargo library associations, with the addition of some name to indicate their location. For instance, the association in New York is known as the Wells Fargo Atlantic library association. The administrative official of each is a president elected by association members. Trustees are also elected. A description of the New York library will practically cover all, although they differ slightly. The president is E. A. Stedman, 63 Broadway, New York. The controlling board consists of a president, vice-president and 8 trustees, 4 of whom are elected every other year, and serve for 2 years, while the president and vice-president are elected annually. There was no money available when the library started, but the members paid dues of 25c a month. For the first 3 years of the libraries' existence Wells Fargo & Co. gave each month the same amount as the members paid in dues. Any employee of Wells Fargo & Co. may become a member of the association regardless of residence. Books borrowed may be retained a month from date of departure from the library, and may be renewed for 2 weeks provided that application is received by the librarian before the month has expired and that no member has reserved the book. This does not apply, however, to books in great demand, which are marked "special" on the outside cover and must be returned within 14 days. A fine of 1c a day is imposed for each book retained after the time allowed. Wells Fargo & Co. carries and returns books free for members of its library associations. Therefore the en-

tire library association is practically a traveling library, with small lots of books moving continually.

On November 20 last, we had at the New York library 2579 books for circulation, in addition to works of reference not circulated. These books were selected by a committee of 3 appointed by the president from the trustees. We have no rule limiting the percentage of fiction and no special subject library. Current magazines are not in great demand and are circulated very little, but a member may retain a magazine a week if desired. Borrowers are requested to send a list of a number of books which they desire, 2 of which may be taken at a time. The librarian sends those first mentioned if he has them on hand. Our system of charging books is to enter the number of the book on the member's card, which is held by the librarian and shows dates of issue and return. These dates are also entered on a label in the book. Our supplies are nearly all homemade including bookcases or shelves, put up by employees of Wells Fargo & Co. Books are sent in packages with binder's boards on each side to protect them. We have issued 2 catalogues and a fourth supplement to the second catalogue. We have now in preparation a new catalogue. The librarian is an employee of Wells Fargo & Co. who is also a member of the library, and whose time allows him to give this extra service.

The New York association has a branch library located at Salamanca, where we send 50 books each month, for members whose duties require them to travel on the road, and who stop over at Salamanca before making their return trip either to Chicago or New York. These 50 books are changed each month, the selection being made by the agent at Salamanca who has charge of this branch library.

Our average monthly circulation is about 600 volumes, or over 20% of the total numbers. On Jan. 1 our membership was 365. In 1900, 8843 books and periodicals were circulated, a gain of nearly 17% over 1899. In addition to the support afforded by Wells Fargo & Co. the president of the company and his business friends have given several valuable works of reference. The library is now buying \$200 worth of additional books, which will be listed in the new catalogue.

The president of Wells Fargo & Co. has also supplied 41 of our principal offices with small reference libraries, for use of local employees whether they belong to any regular library association or not.

University of Chicago (Ill.). Since 1892 traveling libraries have been sent to the centers where lecture courses are given by the extension division. \$600 is appropriated annually for traveling libraries by the university trustees. The system is explained as follows in *Public libraries*, February 1897.

The traveling libraries of the University of Chicago are carefully selected libraries of reference books packed neatly in a small box and sent to some center where a member of the university faculty is delivering a course of instruction. The books are selected with special reference to the subject under investigation and precede the lecture by a few days.

The size of the libraries differs with the size and importance of the class, the average being 38 volumes. Great care is taken to select the best 38 books which can be procured for the subject. The books are intended only for use by those taking the courses, but others may rent them at 30c a term of 6 weeks. To encourage students to collect and own their own books, all books in the extension libraries may be bought at any of the centers, at the price paid by the university when buying in large quantities at special rates. The following slip is pasted in each book: "This book is charged by the university to a responsible borrower. At the expiration of the period for which it is loaned, it must be returned, prepaid, to the university. Should any one wish to purchase it, however, this slip may be returned with \$... in its stead." Through this plan the stock of books is constantly being renewed. Courses not to be repeated no longer need the libraries and they are sold and the money used to add new material. No charge is made for the use of books, and only loss of a book or gross injury to it is subject to fines.

During the year ending June 30, 1900, 63 of the 89 available libraries were distributed among 9 states as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 2; Illinois, 28; Indiana, 3; Iowa, 5; Michigan, 6; Minnesota, 1; Ohio, 11; Wisconsin, 6. Of these libraries 23 were in history, 23 in sociology, 15 in literature and 2 in fine arts. There are no printed catalogues but duplicate lists are sent, one copy of which is signed by the secretary of the center and returned to the university on receipt of the library. The bookcases in which they are shipped have two shelves and are fastened with nut screws and padlock.

The *University record* (Chicago) of Feb. 1, 1901, says of the traveling libraries:

The value of the contribution which the traveling library makes to the lecture courses offered by the extension division can hardly be overestimated. We think it not too much to say that without these collections of selected books, the lectures would serve rather as instructive and suggestive entertainments of limited usefulness than as inspiration and incentive to serious study and solid educational achievement, which the traveling library helps to supply. Although a good public library may possibly contain the readings assigned and recommended in the lecturer's syllabus, it can only supply a single copy of each work; the traveling library multiplies this by 6 or 8 as required, even furnishing a dozen copies in some instances, and thus enables an entire class of students to work together on the same subject. Appreciation of the service rendered by these libraries is shown in the fact that at some centers the library is used as a preparation for the lecture course, the books being placed in circulation weeks before the lectures began.

Polish national alliance (of U. S.) and traveling libraries. The alliance has over 500 branches and a total membership of 30,000. Its central library and museum are in Chicago, the center of the Polish population in the United States. The traveling libraries sent out from the headquarters in Chicago are forwarded from one branch to the next till each library has visited all the branches. Both Polish and English literature are included in each library.

Anna Ticknor library association. This association, formed in 1897 as a memorial, maintains the Anna Ticknor library of Boston Mass., and through it furnishes books, photographs and scientific materials to students in any part of the United States. Books are sent by mail or express or delivered to applicants at the library. The following extracts from the rules of the association indicate the character of the work.

All persons, except members of the association, when first applying for books, will make a deposit of \$1 which will be returned when the depositor severs connection with the library.

The fee for books is 2c a day for each volume. Charges are reckoned from the day of mailing in Boston till the day of mailing in return by the borrower. Return postage or express only is paid by the borrower, except in the case of photographs, when transportation both ways is paid by borrower.

Any person or club paying \$5 in advance has the right, for 3 months, of borrowing 5 books. These books may be changed as often as desired, the borrower paying all return postage. In this case collections of photographs will be supplied at the same rate as books, and the deposit of \$1 is not required. If 10 books or more are taken at one time, half rates only are charged and transportation one way is paid.

Books may be kept for 10 days or more, as specified on the inside covers. After this time a fine of 5c a day is charged, except in cases when the reader notifies the librarian that she wishes an extension of time; then, if no one is waiting for the book, half the original time is allowed in addition.

Courses of study with lists of books recommended have been prepared; the list may serve as library catalogue for each subject, most of the books mentioned being included in the library.

New England traveling library. This association was established in 1899 with headquarters at Bridgeport Ct., to lend books to any town in New England where there is no library. The controlling board, elected at the annual meeting, now consists of Edward Everett Hale, Mrs Margaret Deland, Emma A. Kalbfleisch, Charles Ray Palmer, Mrs Laura E. Richards, Anna Chapin Ray, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Mrs Kate Douglas Wiggin Riggs, Mrs Howard Knapp and Edmund Clarence Stedman. Funds are obtained from membership fees and gifts. One or more libraries at a time are lent for a year, express paid one way, to a responsible person who will make them accessible and circulate them in accordance with the rules. The libraries are selected by a committee elected annually by the association. Lists of books requested by borrowers are submitted once a month to the book committee and all approved books are bought and sent. Each of the 17 traveling libraries contains books on history, travel, biography, literature and poetry and about 5% fiction. One library of 50 volumes contains reference books and recent works on pedagogy and psychology for use of teachers and students. One or two monthly magazines will be sent for one year to be circulated with the books. Any place providing a reading room may borrow books and magazines for its use. 100 Perry pictures recently lent by the publishers will be placed with each traveling library for one month. No bookcases are used. The director writes:

We have at present 8 libraries in Connecticut, 1 in Vermont, 1 in New Hampshire, 5 in Maine and 2 in Massachusetts. We have also boxes of books and magazines in lumber camps and remote farms throughout New England where books from the regular library can not be sent. Freeport Me. and Mt Carmel Ct. where there were traveling libraries for about one year, have now started permanent libraries. Four other places are now forming associations to establish libraries of their own when the traveling libraries move on. At several of the library stations exhibitions of pictures and relics have been held and courses of lectures have been given.

National alliance of the unitarian and other liberal Christian women. Traveling libraries are sent out through the Cheerful letter exchange, the headquarters of which are at Boston Mass. The secretary writes:

The National alliance is the controlling board and the branches work as they choose, simply reporting to us. Each branch selects its own books and manages the library as it thinks best, only applying to us for names of places to which to send them. The libraries go to towns in any part of the United States where there is no library and where we know of some one to take charge of the books. No fees are charged. Religious literature is not a feature of the libraries, as we aim to place good secular reading in the hands of those we help. Books for children as well as grown people are included. The libraries are kept 6 months or a year as seems best. This work is so new with us that most of the 15 libraries have been to but one town. There is a constantly increasing interest in this work among our members. One library will remain in a Vermont town as the first step toward a permanent library.

Kansas city (Mo.) mother's union. The loan library of papers of the Mother's union was established for members of the club who wished to read papers presented at meetings which they had not attended. Increasing requests for aid from other clubs led to sending the papers to any one in any part of the country on receipt of 5c postage each, and an agreement to return the paper within 2 weeks of its receipt, postage prepaid. To meet this increased demand 15 typewritten copies of each paper have been prepared and are lent to mother's clubs, teachers meetings, parents and teachers cooperative societies and individuals, specially women in the country who can not attend clubs. The

titles of some of these papers are: Literature for children, Religious training of children, Some nature friends of children, Are children's troubles sufficiently investigated, Practical house-keeping, Value of regular habits in children, How to make home attractive to young people, Teaching obedience, Pictures and how to utilize them as a means of child culture, Methods of punishment—right and wrong, How parents hinder the school work of their children, Christmas books, Educational value of music in the home, Nutritious value of foods and their economic use. In addition, 8 papers have been printed and are sold in pamphlet form.

National congress of mothers. 7 traveling libraries are lent to affiliated mother's clubs on payment of transportation. Type-written lists are sent with the books and each library is shipped in its bookcase. No time limit is fixed and no fee is required. In 1900 libraries were lent to 16 clubs.

New York state assembly of mothers. Papers on the following subjects are lent on payment of 5c each to cover postage.

Economic value of foods
 The function of the kindergarten
 How can parents of older children help the teacher?
 The rights of baby
 The obligation of the individual to the community
 How to make home restful and stimulating
 The child problem in America
 For an ideal school
 Toys for children
 Discussion of fear
 Study of the effects of fear
 Emergencies—What to do before the doctor arrives
 What duties do mothers with homes owe children without homes?
 Duties of mothers with homes
 Development of Christian character in the home
 Christmas with the children
 The divine rights of children
 Sunday occupations
 Hygiene for schoolboys and girls
 Books and the children
 Children and poetry
 The right art for the schoolroom
 How can we help the girls?
 A wise parenthood
 Parents and teachers cooperative societies

Booklovers library. Of the various subscription libraries none offers so many advantages to subscribers at a distance from the main center as the Booklovers library, established in Philadelphia in 1900. It has in a little over a year established distributing centers in 18 cities besides equipping its commodious headquarters at Philadelphia. Membership fees are 1) \$12 a year for 4 books delivered once a week, \$10 for 3 books a week, \$7.50 for 2 books a week and \$5 for 1 book a week; 2) \$15 a year for 8 books delivered once a month and \$7.50 for 4 books once a month. Special arrangements are made for vacation and traveling memberships. The 1901 announcement says:

The Booklovers library supplies its members with the newest and best books and allows them to keep the books as long as they choose; it delivers and collects the books at the members' residences; in the larger cities and their suburbs the library's delivery coaches make regular weekly calls, delivering the books asked for and collecting those to be returned; it keeps its members informed promptly regarding all new books of special value or of unusual interest. Books are delivered in attractive cloth cases. When books become soiled or uninviting they are immediately withdrawn and new copies substituted. The library carries all the newest good books. These are always the best editions in the best bindings. There is no waiting till some member returns a book; the library buys to meet the demand, no matter how many copies may be needed. Annotated catalogues and weekly bulletins of new books are sent to members. There is also a Young booklovers library containing the best standard and recent children's books.

HOME LIBRARIES

The traveling library idea was utilized by sociologic workers as early as 1887 when home libraries were started in Boston by Charles W. Birtwell, secretary of the Boston children's aid society. The books in these collections are intended for children in poor families and are placed in their homes. Each group brought together by the library is put in charge of a philanthropic worker, called the visitor, who meets the children once a week, is interested in each child personally and so far as practicable guides the reading both in matter and methods thus laying the foundation of a wholesome taste for good books.

A circular issued by the Providence (R. I.) society for organizing charity gives the following description of a home library.

A home library is a case of books containing 20 volumes, chosen to suit the tastes of boys and girls of from 9 to 15 years of age. This is placed in some family, and the oldest child, who is made librarian, invites 6 or 8 of his companions, to meet once a week for an hour with the visitor in charge of the library. At this meeting books are exchanged and discussed, penny provident stamps are sold to those who wish to save, games are played, stories told, songs sung, or anything done which commends itself to the visitor and the children as the best way of spending a pleasant hour. There is room for much individuality in this work. One visitor has established what is practically a current events club, though the children know it by the less imposing name of "Telling what happened this week." One visitor finds that the study of birds interests her children intensely, while another makes a strong point of playing games. The idea is to establish friendly and helpful relations between children and visitor, and there are as many ways of doing this as there are home library groups formed.

We are sometimes asked "Why can't the children go to the public library?" They can, and everything is done to make the public library attractive and helpful to them. But the social element attracts to the home library many who do not in the first place care enough for reading in itself to go to the library, but who may through this method, learn something of the pleasure of books. Moreover, the home library does much beyond merely providing the children with reading material. It gives them an hour of cheerful amusement; it teaches them that the street is not the only place where they can have a good time; it gives them the idea of enjoyment in their own homes; it opens up to them new interests and pleasures; and it provides at least one subject of common interest for the whole family. Moreover, the strongest desire of the visitor is to become a veritable friend to each child and through it to its family, helping as need arises, and sympathizing and encouraging always.

A description of some of the most successful systems follows.

Boston (Mass.) children's aid society. Home libraries were first established in 1887 by the secretary of this society, and have since been an important feature of the work. They are placed in the homes of children who are too poor to buy books and not sufficiently cultured to use the public library intelligently. 10 children under the child librarian and volunteer visitor meet weekly in the living room of the librarian's family. Each library contains 15 books and 5 bound periodicals in a bookcase. All

books and periodicals are carefully read in advance with special reference to their character, language, interest, value, and strictly nonsectarian nature. Books are exchanged weekly and children's opinions of books are recorded. Libraries are exchanged about every 3 months. The purpose of the visitors is to encourage good reading, home amusements and penny savings and to foster a wholesome, happy home life. Games are taught and excursions are made under care of the visitors. Savings are encouraged under the system of the stamp savings society, the visitors taking charge of the money and urging a savings bank account when a sufficient sum is collected. The total savings for the year 1891-92 were \$676.58. The visitors hold a monthly conference where reports are read and experiences compared. One salaried assistant is employed as clerk and librarian at the office of the society. 1360 volumes were in circulation in 1899.

Providence (R. I.) society for organizing charity. The home library work of the society was begun in 1898 and has been supported by private contributions. The work is in charge of a committee consisting of the general manager and 3 members of the Providence society for organizing charity, the librarian of Providence public library, the librarian of Providence Athenaeum and a member of the Association of collegiate alumnae. 8 libraries are maintained during the winter and are lent during the summer to the committee in charge of vacation schools. Many books are duplicates lent by the public library, where the libraries are kept when not in use. The work is described as follows in the *Providence Sunday journal*, Mar. 10, 1901.

The library is a small case made of white wood, stained cherry, containing 18 books. It has a glass door and a lock. The key is given in charge of the small boy or girl, at whose house the case is kept, and who is proud to act as librarian. The books have been chosen to meet the taste of boys and girls from 8 to 15 years of age. Each case generally contains a bound magazine, besides books of travel, history, adventure, fairy tales and nature studies. The young librarian feels very proud of his trust and invites several friends to form a small club to use this library.

Once a week the club meets to exchange books and meet a young woman supervisor who comes from another sphere of action, from a life where greater opportunities and greater re-

sources have made her able to give to the children an hour that shall be stimulating, suggestive and helpful. The clubs are purposely kept small, because a more friendly relation can exist between the children and the supervisor.

There is no fixed routine as to what the club shall do, though at all the clubs the books, of course, are centers of interest. A social hour is passed. Games are played which add a new element to the home. The club hour furnishes a good time which all its members can enjoy within a home where the hand to hand struggle for existence has kept out other amusement. The little, narrow unpaved street, with no sidewalks, the row after row of monotonous tenement houses, the buzz and hum of the nearby factory, the occasional startling shriek of a locomotive, the muddy yards, the vacant lots filled with the refuse of the neighborhood—these are shut out for a while; and, gathered about the kitchen table, is an eager little group, full of childish interest and anticipation. It has been found advisable this year to have a paid head visitor who shall start all the clubs, and then give them over to voluntary visitors.

Albany N. Y. In 1892 home library work was begun in Albany by a committee of the New York state library school aided by a few friends in the city. In order to extend the work it was organized in 1894 as a committee of the Woman's auxiliary board of the Albany city tract and missionary society. Each library of 18 books contains one book of fairy stories, at least one history and book of travel and one animal book. Only best editions are bought and the books are not permanently covered. Two children's periodicals are subscribed for each year for each group. The children choose some hero whose name is given to the group. To illustrate the attempt at educational work the Columbus group may be taken as an example and the following description is taken from an address made by Mrs S. C. Fairchild in 1896 before the New York library association and the New York library club.

There is a badge consisting of a bronze medal with the head of Columbus, fastened with a knot of red, white, and blue ribbon. The rule of the group is the rule of the majority; e. g. when games are to be played a vote is taken and all are expected to enter heartily into the one chosen by the majority. By constant application of this plan and the discussion which it involves, those children have come to understand pretty well the nature of a vote. There is a child's life of Columbus and a scrap-

book containing pictures of him. The Columbus group are appropriately discoverers, and as they have set out to find out everything possible about their own city, once a month the group go out together for a long walk. They have visited the capitol, geological hall, city hall, the Schuyler mansion, etc. Every week 10 minutes are spent in studying the city, the name and location of the streets, the city buildings, the government of the city, its history and antiquities, the cleanliness of the city, etc. Many problems of city government which are taking the attention of the best minds today can be studied in simple form here. And this is real study. It is simple and elementary, but not haphazard, and what they get is definite and organized. It is not merely amusement, though they are interested and take hold heartily. A simple statement of each lesson is duplicated and put into the hands of the children. These will be combined into a handbook useful for all children in the city and suggestive for other cities.

In addition to the books, which are often read by parents, brothers and sisters, small framed pictures and games have been lent for home use. 13 libraries were in circulation during 1900.

New York public library. The traveling library division of the circulating department maintained 18 home libraries in 1900. One of the staff thus describes the work:

While the home libraries are largely in the tenement district, they may be sent wherever a branch of the public library is not accessible. The home library hour given by visitors to story telling and distribution of books proves a pleasure not only to members of the circle but frequently to other members of the families. A cluster of home libraries has in several neighborhoods led to opening a center for distribution in an industrial school or model tenement, where a hundred books may be given out in an afternoon. The preference is given to the home library as giving opportunity for personal work. Several volunteer visitors have helped the staff in caring for these places.

The home library case is a box about 1 ft square on the face and 9 in. deep. It has a shelf near the top for magazines, pencils, application slips, etc. Since the shelf does not run quite across, a space of 3 inches is left full height for larger books. The door is fitted with glass and a lock and key. A stout leather handle is riveted to the top for transportation. For a larger number of books, a case twice as large and having two 9 in. shelves is sometimes furnished but in general no provision is made for storage.

Brooklyn N. Y. The Pratt institute free library, the Brooklyn public library and the Children's aid society cooperate in home library work. Books for this purpose are lent to the Children's aid society by the Pratt institute free library, while the public library has traveling libraries for use as neighborhood libraries for children.

Buffalo (N. Y.) library club. 4 home libraries selected and lent by the Buffalo public library are now in use under supervision of leaders chosen by the library club.

Syracuse N. Y. The home library work is done by the central New York branch of the Association of collegiate alumnae in cooperation with the children's department of the Syracuse public library. 11 libraries of about 24 books each are sent out from the library under charge of leaders authorized by the A. C. A. Leaders send weekly reports of circulation to the public library. Lists of names of the members of the home library groups are kept at the library, as children are not encouraged to take books from both the home library and the public library.

Carnegie library of Pittsburg Pa. Home library work was begun in 1898 with a gift of 4 libraries, to which 20 have since been added. The work is described as follows in the report of the library for 1898.

\$25 purchases a small bookcase of white wood, stained cherry, with glass doors and a lock, covers the price of 17 books and a year's subscription to *St. Nicholas*, *Youth's companion*, and a child's newspaper. It is no small task to select 17 good books for boys and girls from 10 to 15 years of age, with varied tastes; yet as each library must be different from the others, and must represent the best of juvenile literature, a great deal of time is spent in the selection, according to the following principles:

- 1 The best children's literature, in the most attractive editions, should be provided.

- 2 The books should be strictly nonsectarian.

- 3 There should be a certain number of books for boys only, the same number for girls, several which both will read, and one for the mothers.

The organization of a group depends largely on the part of the city in which it is to be started. Names of bright children who will make reliable librarians are suggested by clergymen, and a group is started as soon as a volunteer visitor is found. A case is placed in the home of an enthusiastic little librarian

who is asked to invite 9 of her special friends, boys and girls, to meet about the bookcase. On the day appointed one of the children's librarians from the central library, or more often a volunteer visitor, meets the group and makes the hour pass so pleasantly that the children are eager for the next meeting. The books are given out, and the case is then locked and not opened till the following week. When the children have read all the books, the case is exchanged for another, and after being cleaned and the books freshened, it passes on to another group.

The group work admits of indefinite expansion, according to the calls the children make on the visitor, or the visitor's ability to draw them out. For successful work it is necessary to interest the mothers also. The meetings are weekly, for an hour or longer, during which games, such as authors and dissected pictures, are popular. The visitor reads, talks and plays with the children, and draws them on to talk of the books they have read and encourages them to read more. The reports at the monthly meetings of the volunteer visitors at the central library are most encouraging. These monthly meetings give the work a unity, and the discussion and exchange of experiences solve many difficulties. It also keeps up the enthusiasm of the visitors.

In order to keep the children in touch with each other, we have formed the groups into one organized body, called the "Carnegie home library league." Each member wears a badge—an open book of white metal, silver plated, with the name of the league inscribed across its pages. The little leaguer feels a pride in his group, and the badge causes a feeling of good fellowship toward the members of other groups.

An attractive picture bulletin illustrating the books is sent with each library. One of the libraries is a special collection on birds.

Chicago (Ill.) bureau of charities. About 14 home libraries of 20 books each circulate in the West side district. A visitor meets each group of children weekly at the home of the child librarian for an hour of reading and playing games. Mounted pictures and games are sent with some of the libraries. The children are encouraged to save their money by the penny savings system.

Chicago (Ill.) library club. A home library committee appointed by the club maintains 4 home libraries in poor parts of the city. Each group of children numbers about 30.

Helena (Mont.) public library. The acting librarian says of the home libraries:

Our work here is only a beginning. We have just 2 circle libraries of 20 volumes each. The money for one of these was raised by a lady interested in the work. The circle which was benefited by this library, under the direction of the same friend, raised the money for the second library. The two have been in use in the most neglected portions of the city.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

CANADA

McGill university, Department of traveling libraries. With funds contributed by the family of the late Hugh McLennan, McGill university established in 1900 a system of traveling libraries for circulation in Canada. The controlling board includes the chairman of the university board of governors, one representative fellow, the university librarian and one member of the family providing the funds. \$1000 is given annually for the support of the system. On payment of a fee of \$3 traveling libraries are lent for three months to

1) country schools on application of the principal and guaranty of the secretary, treasurer of school commissioners or trustees of the district;

2) public libraries on application of the governing body and guaranty of its chairman;

3) reading or literary clubs on application of the secretary and guaranty of an owner of real estate worth \$200;

4) communities having no public library on application of residents and on the guaranty of an owner of real estate worth \$200.

Of the 18 libraries available, 2 are collections of children's books. 1 contains 29 volumes on the Victorian era and 1 is a library of 21 volumes on Canadian literature and history. The other libraries are for general reading and contain 33% fiction. Special subject libraries may be obtained on application.

With traveling libraries lent to schools are sent 2 large framed photographs of pictures by great masters, and these may be kept a year. Lantern slides and illustrated lectures also are lent. Books are sent in cases made of stained pine or bass wood, 22x18x12 in. with cover screwed on. 2 light cleats are nailed

inside for support of the shelf when the box is used as a bookcase. In 1900, 10 libraries were sent to 9 towns having few library privileges and ranging in latitude from Alberta in the west to Nova Scotia in the east.

Ontario traveling libraries. In the province of Ontario, Alfred Fitzpatrick of Nairn Center has begun to establish "reading camps" and to develop a system of traveling libraries among the stations of the great lumber companies. The work began in September 1900, when the Little Current public library, in the center of a lumbering region, asked permission from the minister of education to send small branch libraries to lumber camps in its vicinity. The request having been granted, circulars were forwarded to the leading lumber firms of the province, with the recommendation that "a traveling library commission be appointed and a sum of money appropriated by the Ontario government with which to purchase books of the most approved literature; and that in the meantime, to assist in meeting the present needs, all public library boards be allowed the privilege of sending small collections of books into the camps." The proposal met with general approval and the department of education gave its support to the system. The work has so far been mainly experimental and is regarded only as the beginning of a provincial system of traveling libraries to be controlled by the department of education.

As a beginning, libraries were established in 3 lumber camps. In a recent pamphlet entitled *Library extension in Ontario: traveling libraries and reading camps*, Mr Fitzpatrick says:

Branch libraries in French and English from the Nairn Center public library have been placed in these reading camps. One of the McGill university traveling libraries will be circulated in the Victoria Harbor Co.'s camp no. 2. Several weekly and daily papers, including *La presse*, one of the leading dailies in the French language, have been subscribed for the exclusive use of the reading shanties. Many illustrated magazines have been received from friends. One-syllable editions of *Robinson Crusoe*, *Swiss Family Robinson* and *Pilgrim's progress* are being given those who can not read, and they are being urged to improve their spare moments, and ask help from the nearest neighbor. The principle of mutual help is being encouraged. If the funds will warrant it, prizes will be offered for the men who, being unable to read or write the English language, will in the course of the

winter acquire either art. Branch libraries are also being circulated in a few camps where there are no reading rooms. In this way nearly 600 men in this vicinity will have the advantage of a good public library, and in 3 of the camps those whose elementary education was neglected will have an opportunity of improving it. In order to ascertain the most suitable building for this purpose, the shanties in question are built of different sizes. One is divided by a partition, thus separating it into 2 rooms, one to serve the purpose of a smoking room with games, the other that of a reading and study room. The partition is put up in sections easily removable, so that the whole can be thrown into one large room, in the event of its being required for a religious service, social concert or lecture.

The pamphlet contains also views of the reading camps and extracts from letters of commendation and gratitude.

British Columbia, Library of the legislative assembly. Since 1898 the government of British Columbia has made an annual appropriation for traveling libraries sent out from the provincial library at Victoria. Any number of residents over 21 years of age may borrow a library for 3 months after agreeing to pay transportation, provide a suitable place for the library, select a librarian, be responsible for the care of the books and, after 3 months, forward the library to an address given by the provincial librarian. The first applicants from a community must pay \$6 for the cedar bookcase and crate but no community is required to pay for more than one bookcase. The libraries are general in character but contain a large proportion of works on agriculture, mining, forestry, etc. Finding lists of 21 libraries of about 100 volumes each have been printed. In 1900, 24 libraries were sent to 22 small places. Transportation on the Canadian Pacific railroad is free of charge.

Aberdeen association. Though this organization collects books and magazines to give away in remote country districts instead of sending traveling libraries, the character of the work is so similar that we include the following description based on a paper, by Miss E. E. Laidlaw, secretary of the Montreal English branch, read at the A. L. A. conference in Montreal 1900, and published in *Library journal*, August 1900.

The object of the Aberdeen association is to collect good and attractive periodicals and other literature, and to distribute it in

monthly parcels to settlers who apply for it from outlying parts of Canada,

1 To those whose homes are so situated geographically that it is difficult for them to obtain literature;

2 To those who from financial circumstances might not be able to buy it;

3 To those who from want of interest might leave themselves and their children without good reading matter.

The association is strictly undenominational, and rigidly avoids any semblance of religious or political bias, and sends out such literature as suits the religion, and, as far as possible, the tastes of the readers. The postage, as the work grew, became a serious matter, and though generous subscriptions made the outlay possible for a time, a very great relief was felt when the postmaster general saw his way to allowing the free carriage of Aberdeen association matter. The sources of supply are not confined to Canada alone, Lady Aberdeen having created much interest in its behalf in England and Scotland. The London (Eng.) branch has as its president, Lady Dufferin, and as its secretary, Mrs Gordon, of Ellon. Last year 86 cases were received from Great Britain, consisting roughly of 25,000 books, 23,000 magazines, 25,000 illustrated papers, etc. These were handled at the central office in Ottawa and distributed in 154 cases to the various branches. The mailing list at the last annual meeting, Hamilton, October 1899, consisted of 1900 monthly parcels sent to 520 post-offices for 9 months in the year. This made the output 20,000 parcels, averaging nearly 5 pounds each, and reaching more than 8000 people.

Lady Aberdeen has also organized in London a scheme of collection from newspaper offices, etc., in whose editorial rooms boxes labeled "For the Aberdeen association" are placed and called for by monthly vans, notification of whose arrival is duly sent. In this way many books sent for review find their way to the far off homes in the northwest, there to bring a savor of new life to the snow-bound pioneers, who are laying the foundations of civilization for us and our children, and to whom surely our sympathy for loneliness and patient working and waiting must of necessity go forth.

For the children we have an especial care, all bright pictures and books being carefully gathered and branch membership fees devoted to buying new literature, specially at Christmas time, when we try to send them books to keep. Lady Aberdeen's thoughtfulness in sending out paint boxes and colored chalks proved a joy, not only to the little ones, but to many a bachelor in his little shack. Flower seeds are sent out to brighten the little door yards, and an essay competition on a given subject (with

liberal prizes) has had good results. It may amuse you to hear that one prize bought a pig for an enterprising woman.

The better known the work of this association the more cordial the support it receives from the public; and no better criterion of the results can be given you than those contained in the requests for literature and the settlers letters. Among the requests sent in we may quote a few examples:

Farmer's wife, methodist. Wants love stories and detective works.

School teacher. Wants good solid reading, good novels, children's literature for distribution, and scientific reading for self.

Farm hand, catholic boy. Wants *Uncle Tom's cabin* and *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

Farmer's wife, presbyterian, with 10 children. Wants music, school books, story books, instruction in dancing, grace of deportment and carriage, fancy work, late fashions, evening amusements and entertainments.

Manager of lumber camp. Wants historical works and scientific literature for himself, and miscellaneous French and English for camps.

Roman catholic Indian teacher. Wants magazines, pictorials and flute music.

Lutheran farmer. Wants anything interesting and instructive. Reads English, French and German.

Carpenter, widower with 8 children; Joseph, consumptive. Wants religious and moral, and easily read books, specially for Joseph.

ENGLAND

Oxford university. The following account of the libraries sent out since 1885 is reprinted from an official circular.

Traveling libraries are issued by the delegates in connection with courses of Oxford university extension lectures, and are packed in strong wooden boxes measuring 24 x 18 x 7½ in. Each of the boxes, which are lined with leather and fitted with a sliding shelf, serves as a bookcase during the course of lectures. The boxes have hinged lids, which are fastened by studs and screw-nuts.

The traveling libraries are issued at no extra charge, beyond that of carriage by goods train to and from the university extension office, Oxford, on the following conditions:

- 1 The books are deposited in the responsible care of the local committee which is acting in concert with the university, for the term during which Oxford lectures are being delivered.

- 2 The books are intended for the free use of students attending the lectures.

- 3 A record of the weekly circulation of each volume must be

kept by a member of the local committee, or its representative, on the printed form provided for that purpose. It is suggested that each volume should be issued for 1 week at the conclusion of each lecture, and that at the expiration of the week, the borrower should be permitted to renew his loan if no other application has been made for the volume. At the end of the course, the circulation form is to be returned with the traveling library to Oxford.

4 If a volume is defaced or lost, the volume must be paid for. If one volume of a set is lost, the set must be replaced. Each volume is stamped as the property of the University of Oxford.

5 On the issue of each library, an invoice in the form of a receipt is posted to the secretary of the local committee; this invoice, acknowledging the receipt of the books entered upon it, must be signed by the local secretary, and sent at once to the university extension office, Oxford.

6 The date fixed for the return of the library, which is about a fortnight after the conclusion of the course of lectures, is notified on the circulation form. On returning the library to Oxford, carriage by goods train must be prepaid and the address card reversed.

Some centers, which have tried both plans, find it best to keep the library in a central room for reference. Students meet there, at certain times every day, and discuss their difficulties. It is important not to keep the library in a room which is in any way identified with a sectarian institution. In centers where the books are distributed after each lecture, a list should be printed of all the books in the library. A copy of this list should be given to all the students attending the classes. It is proper that these students should have the first claim on the books. A local committee should aim at forming a permanent reference library for students. Residents will often be glad to supplement the traveling libraries by lending books from their own libraries for the use of students during the course.

The traveling libraries are intended to encourage students to buy and read the books recommended by the lecturer. Sometimes the libraries are kept in the shop of a local bookseller, who undertakes to issue the books to students at certain times. Some local committees ask their booksellers to keep, just before and during the course, a stock of the textbooks recommended to the students. Some free and subscription libraries have also provided a university extension table during a course; such a table should contain the books recommended in the syllabus.

Extra libraries can be obtained for the course on payment of an additional fee.

In 1900, 128 libraries were sent to extension centers.

Cambridge university. Following a plan similar to that of Oxford the University of Cambridge sends traveling libraries to its extension centers. The system is described as follows in a university bulletin.

A traveling library consisting of 1 copy of each of the textbooks and of most of the books of reference mentioned in the lecturer's syllabus is provided by the syndicate for each course of lectures and the subscription is covered by the inclusive fee charged for the course. The library is lent distinctly for purposes of reference, but additional copies of certain of the books supplied to the center may, in some cases, be obtained from the syndicate for loan purposes on payment of 1s a volume for 3 months. These may be circulated among the students. The following regulations must be strictly observed:

- 1 There shall be in every center a responsible librarian approved by the syndicate who shall undertake the management, safe custody, and prompt return of the books.

- 2 The books shall be kept in a central place, so that they can be consulted by the students without being removed. The authorities of the free library or local museum are often willing to provide a room where the books may be placed and consulted.

- 3 The center shall pay the carriage of the books both ways.

- 4 The books shall be returned to syndicate buildings immediately after the examination or at the conclusion of the course.

Victoria university (Manchester). In connection with its university extension lectures, traveling libraries are lent to centers under the following rules:

The libraries are the property of the university, and are placed by them in the hands of the local committees, who are held responsible for their care, and are required to replace any volume or volumes that may be damaged or lost while the books are in their charge.

The fee for the loan of each ordinary library is 1 guinea, but when the number of volumes required is exceptionally large, a suitable multiple of this fee is charged. The local committee are further required to pay the cost of carriage from the university.

The books are intended for the free use of students attending the lectures, preference being given to those who are regular members of the class.

A record of the weekly circulation of each volume must be kept by a member of the local committee, or its representative, on the printed form provided for the purpose. It is suggested that each volume should be issued for 1 week, at the conclu-

sion of each lecture, and that, at the expiration of the week, the borrower should be permitted to renew his loan if no other application has been made for the volume. At the end of the course, the circulation form is to be returned with the traveling library to the university.

Libraries must, as a rule, be returned to the university within 7 days of the examination; or, if no examination is held, within 14 days of the conclusion of the course. They may, however, if not required for other centers, be borrowed from the university, for 3 months before or after the course, on payment of an additional fee.

London, National liberal club. The club lends "village libraries," containing 50 or 60 volumes on history, politics, biography and standard novels, packed on shelves in strong, iron-bound boxes covered with canvas. Each box has a catalogue and a number of liberal leaflets for distribution. The libraries are lent for 3 months and the books are circulated under rules imposed by the person in charge. No fee is required by the National liberal club for the library, but the village librarian may exact from borrowers a fee of a halfpenny a volume as a recompense for his work. The person to whom the library is sent is responsible for the safe return of the books.

London, Review of reviews. From the circulating library of the *Review of reviews*, traveling libraries are sent to remote villages in England and Wales. The work began in 1894 and was suggested by requests from country people for advice about the choice of books and editions. 12 general libraries of 40 volumes each are available and each library is duplicated several times. On payment of £6 a year a community may borrow a traveling library every 3 months. Each library is catalogued and sent in a painted wooden box which has a clamp and a lock.

DENMARK

The state committee for advancing the interest of popular libraries, in addition to granting subsidies to public libraries, has established a number of traveling libraries of from 36 to 50 volumes each. The libraries are lent without charge for 6 months to small and newly organized libraries in country districts. Each library is accompanied by printed catalogues and a simple charging system, and is sent in a bookcase having 2

shelves, 2 doors, lock and iron handle. *Translated from A. S. Steenberg, Folkebogsamlinger, deres historie og indretning, 1900*

AUSTRALIA

Public library of New South Wales. The traveling libraries sent out from the public library of New South Wales at Sydney are supported by the state and lent under the following conditions:

Books will be lent only to trustees or committees of free libraries, schools of arts, literary associations, mechanics institutes, libraries of municipalities, or recognized groups of students, that are beyond the boundaries of the city of Sydney.

All books authorized to be lent under these conditions are bound in good strong binding, placed in boxes constructed of nearly uniform size numbered from 1 to 103. Each box contains 40 to 100 volumes, according to its catalogue, in which no alteration can be made. The period of loan shall be 4 months.

Printed catalogues of the contents of each box, stating the value of each book, together with forms of applications for loans, will be forwarded free of charge, on application being made to the principal librarian.

Trustees or committees of country libraries, etc., wishing to obtain boxes of books on loan, must make application in writing, to be accompanied by an undertaking in the form approved by the trustees of the public library of New South Wales, to indemnify them against loss.

Borrowers in their applications must give a full description of the library, room, or building in which it is proposed to deposit the books. They must also submit, for approval of the trustees, the special conditions or regulations under which it is proposed to lend any books so obtained from the trustees, who reserve to themselves the right of refusing any application.

No charge will be made for the loan of any box of books to cover the cost of railway freight and packing, but the borrower is expected to arrange for the necessary cartage at his end, when near a railway station or seaport. No receipt will be given for any books returned until they have been collated and an adjustment made for any loss or damage that may be discovered.

In order to assist any circle of students attending a course of university extension lectures, or studying some subjects needing books that can not otherwise be obtained, a special collection of 12 to 50 books, as selected by the class of students,

will be made up and sent on loan, whenever practicable. Timely application must be made for any such special box of books, accompanied by a guaranty of fair usage and safe return.

Each library is general in character and contains about 5% standard fiction. Special libraries for farmers, fruit growers and miners were prepared but were so little used that they have been withdrawn. In 1900, 242 libraries were sent to 128 small towns.

Public library, museums, and National gallery of Victoria. The oldest system of traveling libraries still in existence is in operation in Melbourne, and is thus described by E. La T. Armstrong, librarian of the public library.

The system of traveling libraries was put into operation in Victoria in May 1860, the scheme having been devised in April 1859, to help the libraries which had already been started, and to promote the establishment of libraries throughout Victoria. A start was made with 20 cases containing 1000 volumes, which were lent to 6 institutes. At first the circulation was confined to localities near Melbourne, but by the time the tentative stage had passed the era of railroad construction had begun. As each line of railway was opened demands came for loans, at first to form the nucleus of a library, and afterward, as the local collections increased, to afford a fluctuating supplement. This has been the invariable history of the circulation of the traveling library system in this state. One library 160 miles from Melbourne has borrowed 132 cases, another 130 miles from Melbourne, 115 cases.

New cases of books were added from time to time as funds permitted till 1893. From then till July 1900, no money was placed at the disposal of the trustees to make further additions. For the service of the current financial year £500 was made available, and 1977 volumes have already been added. All the contents of the cases not lent were overhauled, and out of date books discarded. Additions were made available for loan at the end of January. Since that date applications have been received from 21 country institutes for the loan of 38 cases, and it is thought that when the new system is brought more freely under notice, the resources of this section of the public library will be strained to meet the demands from all parts of the state.

After filing bonds for amounts equal to the value of the books, trustees of free libraries and mechanics institutes and municipal councils may borrow libraries for 6 months or a year. In mak-

ing application borrowers are requested to give information as follows:

- 1 A brief description of the building in which the library is located, stating whether it is of brick, wood or stone.
- 2 The days and hours during which the library is open to the public.
- 3 Whether books are lent out.
- 4 The estimated population served by the library.
- 5 The nature, if any, of the agricultural operations in the district, i. e. whether wheat-growing, grazing, stock breeding, dairying, fruit-growing (stating kinds of fruit grown), or any other rural industry.
- 6 The nature of the mining operations, if any, in the district.
- 7 The number of volumes in the local library.

Transportation one way is paid by the borrower but by a regulation of the Victorian railway department, all libraries are returned to Melbourne free of charge. 132 libraries of about 50 volumes each are now available, and a number of them are special subject libraries for circulation in mining and farming districts.

Bookcases are made of wood, bound with brass at each corner, lined with green baize and provided with strong handles at the sides. They are closed by sliding doors and covered with waterproof tarpaulin to protect them during transportation. The first cases constructed were of oak and cost £6 10s. Native timber is now used and the cost is £3 10s. each.

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